Ukrainian News
Українські вісті

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Trial in Shevchenko monument heist to start Jan. 30

By Marco Levytsky

Suspects in the dismantling and theft of the first monument to Taras Shevchenko erected in the Western Hemisphere are scheduled to appear in an Oakville, Ont., court Jan. 30 for the opening of their trial, says the Vice President of the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation.

Andrew Gregorovich also told Ukrainian News that no decision had been reached on whether to replace the monument at a foundation meeting held Jan. 8, but the matter may come up again at the first Monday of February.

According to Bill Harasym, President of the Board, the monument was not insured because the park where it was located was unoccupied during the winter months and the insurance company refused to cover it if no one was living on the premises.

The five-metre tall statue was cut away at the feet and hauled off the park at some time between Dec. 15, when it was last seen and Dec. 31 when it was first noticed missing.

PHOTO — SUPPLIED BY ANDREW GREGOROVICH

Andrew Gregorovich, Vice President of the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation, stands beside what used to be the Shevchenko monument in Oakville, Ont.

According to Gregorovich, the thieves must have carted it off with a crane and other heavy equipment.

Two days later the head was found at a smelter in nearby Burlington.

Harasym said the owner of the smelter heard about the heist because it was covered extensively in the local media and contacted the police.

As a result of that tip, police arrested one suspected, who led them to another.

Harasym said police told him the rest of the statue was most likely chopped up and shipped to some for-

Cont. on P. 3

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PHOTO — OFFICE OF THE LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

Dion attends Regina Malanka

Official Opposition Leader Stéphane Dion attended a Ukrainian New Year's Eve Dance (Malanka) in Regina Jan. 13, during a Prairies visit that also took him to Edmonton and Calgary. Pictured above, Left to Right: Ralph Goodale, MP for Regina Wascana; Orest Warnyca, President, UCC Regina; Dr Ed Klopoushak; Stéphane Dion; Terry Zwarych, President, Tavria Ukrainian Folk Dance Ensemble; Ken Dryden, MP York Centre; Terry Kuzyk, Tavria Ukrainian Folk Dance Ensemble. Front row — young dancer with the Regina Ukrainian Dance Ensemble.

Суддею, що пішов проти Мороза і Януковича, уже зайнялися впритул

(Українська правда/Обком)—Вища рада юстиції ухвалила рішення перевірити наявність підстав для звільнення судді Мукачівського міськрайонного суду (Закарпатська область), що своїм рішенням заборонив голові Верховної Ради Олександру Морозу підписувати закон про Кабінет міністрів.

Про це повідомили Українським новинам у прес-службі Вищої ради юстиції.

За даними прес-служби, на засіданні 23 січня Вища рада юстиції розглянула ситуацію, що склалася навколо рішення судді Мукачівського суду. Після засідання виконуючий обов'язки голови Вищої ради юстиції Лідія Ізовітова доручила одному з членів ради перевірити наявність підстав для звільнення цього судді.

"Доручила провести перевірку інформації, викладеної в засобах масової інформації, із приводу наявності підстав для звільнення судді Мукачівського суду Закарпатської області Монича Володимира Олексійовича з посади за порушення присяги", – повідомили у прес-службі.

Як повідомлялося, раніше Мукачівський суд (Закарпатська область) заборонив голові Верховної Ради Олександру Морозу підписувати закон про Кабінет міністрів.

12 січня Рада подолала вето президента на закон про Кабмін, а 19 січня Віктор Ющенко повторно його ветував, мотивувавши це тим, що ухвалений 12 січня текст закону відрізняється від першого варіанта, який він ветував.

Янукович пропонує Ющенку порушити Конституцію

(Українська правда)—Представник президента в КС Володимир Шаповал вважає, що ідея прем'єра Віктора Януковича прийняти поправки до діючого закону є проти Конституції. Про це він сказав на брифінгу, повідомляє Обком.

"Якщо була така пропозиція, то це фактично пропозиція президенту порушити Конституцію. Тобто, хоча президент бачить проблему, що була порушена процедура, але підписує закон", – сказав Шаповал.

Він вважає, що такий компроміс можна було б знайти, якби претензії президента були пред'явлені до змісту закону.

Однак, за його словами, закон був прийнятий з порушенням процедури.

Шаповал також сказав, що і з політичної точки зору такий компроміс для президента неприйнятний.

"Як буде виглядати ця ситуація? Президент повернув, а потім забирає. Я не думаю, що це серйозно, я не думаю, що це послідовно, принаймні, у юридичному плані", - заявив він.

"Президент – це гарант Конституції, і ми повинні говорити про юридичні зобов'язання, покладені на нього Конституцією", – підкреслив Шаповал.

Як повідомлялося, Янукович допускає прийняття Верховною Радою поправок Ющенко до закону про Кабмін після вступу його в силу.

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Кушнарьова убили з необережности

Прокуратура висунула обвинувачення

(Українська правда/Українські новини)—Прокуратура Харківської області винесла постанову про висунення обвинувачення в убивстві Євгена Кушнарьова по необережності помічникові депутата Верховної Ради Дмитра Шенцева Дмитрові Завальному.

Про це заявив на прес-конференції прокурор Харківської області Василь Сінчук, 23 січня.

За його словами, наразі Завальний знаходиться на стаціонарному лікуванні й обвинувачення йому буде висунуто відразу по завершенні цього лікування.

Сінчук повідомив, що дана справа розслідується по частині 1 ст.119 Кримінального кодексу (убивство з необережності).

Він підкреслив, що слідство не встановило жодних ознак, щоб кваліфікувати убивство іншим способом. За словами Сінчука, на даний час проведена судово-медична експертиза у цій справі, а криміналістична і балістична експертизи ще не завершені.

З'ясовано, що убивство відбулося на відстані не менш 100 м від автомобіля, на якому їхав Кушнарьов і його супутники.

За словами Сінчука, зброя, з якої стріляв Завальний, належала його батькові.

При повторному огляді місця події знайдені 4 гільзи, а в тілі - куля.

За словами Сінчука, допитані всі 5 чоловік, що були в момент події разом з Кушнарьовим.

Один з них, Шенцев, скористався своїм правом не давати свідчення.

"Я сподіваюся, що його переконають", - сказав Сінчук.

Відповідаючи на питання Українських Новин, Сінчук повідомив, що справу розслідують слідче управління обласної прокуратури і зараз питання про передачу його в Генпрокуратуру не стоїть.

Завальний знаходиться під підпискою про невиїзд. Сінчук сказав також, що слідство не має підстав свідчити, чи було законним чи незаконним полювання, під час якого загинув Кушнарьов.

"Немає підстав говорити, що мало місце браконьєрство", - сказав Сінчук.

Завальний - житель Харкова 1969 року народження.

Як повідомляло агентство, 17 січня Кушнарьов помер у лікарні Ізюму (Харківська область), де йому зробили 2 операції після отриманого на полюванні вогнепального поранення.

США обіцяє не зазіхати на безпеку України

(Українська правда/Інтерфакс-Україна)—Можливе розміщення на території Польщі і Чехії американських протиракетних баз не буде загрожувати безпеці сусідніх країн.

Про це на прес-конференції 23 січня заявив посол США в Україні Вільям Тейлор.

"Діяльність цих систем не спрямована проти будь-якої з країн", - заявив він.

Посол підкреслив, що переговори щодо даного питання почалися нещодавно.

У цьому зв'язку Тейлор відзначив, що терміни можливого розміщення на території Польщі і Чехії американських баз також будуть залежати від ходу переговорів.

"Призначення цих систем полягає в тому, щоб забезпечити захист країн Європи, у тому числі й України, від можливостей нападу з боку країн Близького Сходу, а також інших країн, що можуть мати доступ до військових ядерних технологій", - заявив Тейлор.

Коментуючи на прохання журналістів заяви Росії про можливості розміщення таких баз у Польщі і Чехії, американський посол сказав: "Я не знайомий з реакцією російської сторони".

У той же час Тейлор повідомив, що після ознайомлення з коментарями Росії по даному питанню він надасть відповідний коментар американської сторони.

Іноземні військові бояться чіпати Крим?

(Українська правда)—У 2007 році міжнародні військові навчання "Сі Бриз-2007" планується провести не в Криму, як передбачалося у 2006 році.

Про це 23 січня заявив начальник управління військового співробітництва Генштабу ЗС України полковник Олександр Шерстюк, повідомляє прес-служба Міністерства оборони.

"У цьому році навчання "Сі Бриз–2007" заплановано провести в іншому місці і в не такому форматі, як планувалося у минулому році", - сказав він.

"Ми запланували його проведення не в Криму, а в Одесі та на Широколанівському полігоні у Миколаївській області", - уточнив Шерстюк.

Стосовно зміни формату "Сі Бризу–2007" полковник зазначив, що остаточний формат маневрів буде визначено протягом планових конференцій, які проводитимуться в рамках підготовки до "Сі Бризу-2007".

Як відомо, влітку 2006 року військові навчання "Сі Бриз-2006" мали проводитися в Криму, але були зірвані через відсутність відповідних офіційних документів з боку влади України та протести місцевих жителів.

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За Україну у війну з ЄС вступили дві країни

(Українська правда)—Польща і Швеція намагалися добитися європейської перспективи для України в ухваленому 22 січня Радою міністрів закордонних справ країн-членів ЄС мандаті для Єврокомісії на проведення переговорів з Україною щодо нової посиленої угоди.

Про це пише бельгійська газета "Le Soir" у статті під назвою "Прочинити двері, залишаючи їх закритими", повідомляє УНІАН.

"Більшість абсолютно не бажала, щоб цей мандат, який має юридичну силу, враховував європейські прагнення України. Швеція та Польща, які дуже схвально ставляться до майбутнього приєднання України, чинили спротив", - зазначається в статті.

"Як прочинити двері, залишаючи їх закритими? 27 міністрів продемонстрували, що для дипломатії законів фізики не існує", - продовжує видання.

Газета робить висновок, що ставлення до України, яке було продемонстроване, в тому числі й рішенням Ради міністрів закордонних справ ЄС, свідчить про те, що ЄС не може більше розширятися без проведення інституційних реформ, але ці реформи дуже важко реалізувати.

Як відомо, 22 січня Рада міністрів закордонних справ ЄС ухвалила висновки, які стосуються переговорів з Україною про підписання нової посиленої угоди.

Shevchenko monument sawed off at the feet

Cont. from P. 1

eign country for scrap metal.

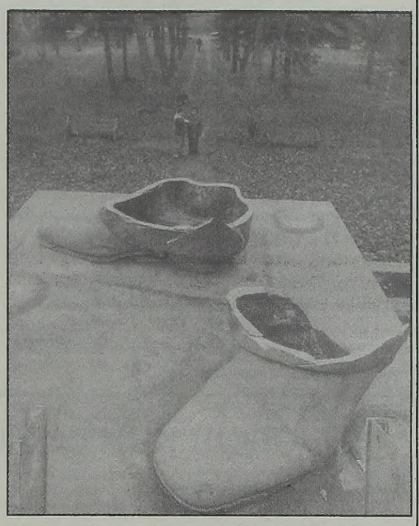
He added that no decision had been made as to what to do with the head, but that it would probably be placed on display.

The statue, which was created in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, was donated to the people of Canada by the USSR in 1951, in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of Ukrainian settlement in Canada.

About 45,000 people attended the 1951 unveiling of the monument at the park, run by the pro-Soviet Association of Ukrainian Canadians.

There are currently over 600 monuments to Shevchenko around the world.

This is not the first time a monument was stolen from the park. Several years earlier a smaller statue was stolen from the entrance, after which the insurance company refused to cover the bigger one.



Above and left: Two views of what's left of the munment.

Asked whether there had been offers from other Ukrainian organizations to place the statue elsewhere, Harasym replied:

"There were people interested in it of course, but why should we move it? It was very historic and was unveiled at that location on Canada Day, in 1951 and the first Shevchenko monument unveiled in (either) the North American or South American continent. The history behind it is also very important."

Asked whether there had been any discussions with the City of Oakville to transfer the 16.2-acre site and the monument, Harasym confirmed there had been, but "at this particular conjuncture we have not had an opportunity to follow up on discussions with Oakville and... we don't want to make any snap decisions."

The park also used to house a Shevchenko museum which was torched by arsonists in 1988.

The museum was subsequently reestablished in Toronto.

Rada overrides president's veto on land-sales ban

(RFE/RL)—On Jan. 9, the Verkhovna Rada overrode President Viktor Yushchenko's veto on the extension of the moratorium on land sales with 67 votes more than the 300 required, Interfax reported the same day. The extension of the moratorium was backed by the "anticrisis coalition," as well as 120 deputies from the opposition Yuliya Tymoshenko Bloc, Yushchenko's ally in the Orange Revolution, and five deputies from the pro-presidential Our Ukraine caucus. "The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine has extended the existence of the black market of land in Ukraine," Our Ukraine leader Vyacheslav Kyrylenko said. Arseniy Yatsenyuk, first deputy head of the Presidential Secretariat, said the Verkhovna Rada decision may be challenged in the Constitutional Court.

Communists threaten impeachment

(RFE/RL)—The Communist Party caucus in the Verkhovna Rada said in a Jan. 10 statement that the policies followed by President Viktor Yushchenko are grounds for initiating impeachment proceedings against him, Interfax reported the same day. The caucus accused Yushchenko of waging "an actual war" against parliament by vetoing a number of bills. "Serious attempts to disturb the social and political situation in Ukraine and to provoke early parliamentary elections are eroding what is left of the people's trust in the president's power and are raising the issue of impeaching the president," the statement reads.

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Wrzesnewskyj appointed Critic for Crown Corporations

(MP Wrzesnewskyj Office)—Liberal M.P. Borys Wrzesnewskyj (Etobicoke Centre) has been appointed the Official Opposition's Critic for Crown Corporations. The appointment was made Jan. 18 by Official Opposition Leader Stephane Dion. Commenting on his appointment, Wrzesnewskyj said:

"It's an honour and a privilege to have been asked to serve as the Critic for Crown Corporations and I would like to thank Official Opposition Leader Stephane Dion for this opportunity and challenge and for his trust in my abilities. I look forward to working with my critic colleagues in holding this minority government accountable. Crown Corporations are among Canada's largest economic entities and have daily impact on the lives of Canadians. In my capacity as critic I will address the concerns of Canadians and our party with 11 different Ministers in a diverse number of Crown Corporations, ranging from the CBC and Via Rail to the International Development Research Centre and Atomic Energy Canada."

An opposition critic's role and responsibility is to shadow a particular Minister(s) and his or her work in their particular portfolios. As Critic for Crown Corporations, Wrzesnewskyj will work along side 11 of his fellow critics in holding the respective Ministers to account.

CEC commends Harper for reinstating the Secretary of State, Multiculturalism

(CEC)—The Canadian Ethnocultural Council President, Peter Ferreira commends the Prime Minister Harper for reinstating the position of Secretary of State for Multiculturalism in the new cabinet appointments announced Jan. 4.

"As Canadian society continues to become increasingly diverse we have to ensure that our commitment to multiculturalism policy and legislation has the required government support. By working together with the Secretary of State we can harness Canada's cultural diversity in a inclusive and positive manner while continuing to strengthen our Canadian identity," said Ferreira in a statement issued Jan. 11.

"We are pleased that the Prime Minister has recognized the importance of this portfolio. It requires a dedicated cabinet position to provide the leadership needed to oversee the application of the Canadian Multiculturalism Act, the first legislation of its kind in the world. We look forward to working with the Honourable Jason Kenny. We share a common goal to create dialogue with Canada's many cultural communities, and a common vision that Canada's diversity is one of its greatest strengths," concluded Mr. Ferreira.

The Canadian Ethnocultural Council is a coalition of over 30 national ethnocultural organizations, which in turn represent over 2,000 local chapters across Canada. Its mandate is to promote the understanding of the multicultural reality of Canada as defined in The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and The Canadian Multiculturalism Act.

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Роман Лебедь, *Бі-Бі-Сі, Київ*

Кінопрокатні компанії, демонстратори фільмів та українське міністерство культури і туризму домовилися, підписавши меморандум про співпрацю, про те, що до кінця цього року половина усіх стрічок повинні демонструватися з українським дубляжем, або субтитрами.

В подальшому цей показник планують наблизити до 100%, проте не відомо скільки часу це займе.

Проблема дублювання фільмів в Україні має багаторічну історію. Не так давно озвучувати іноземні стрічки українською мовою кінопрокатників зобов'язав уряд Юрія Єханурова. Однак, згодом апеляційний суд скасував це рішення.

Воно було не на руку тим кінопрокатникам, які працюють через російських посередників.

Хоча такі й у меншості, нинішній уряд і віце-прем'єр Дмитро Табачник зокрема також вважають, що дублювати всі фільми державною мовою фінансово невигідно.

Проте, Богдан Батрух – дистриб'ютор, що працює напряму з іноземними кіновиробниками, вважає інакше.

За його словами, на українському дубляжеві можна заробляти. Як ілюстацію, він навів свіжий фільм "Дежавю".

Кількість копій, перекладених російською та українською однакова. Однак, пан Богдан говорить, що на перегляд україномовної версії до кінотеатрів прийшло 70% усієї аудиторії, в той час, як російськомовну відвідало лише 30%.

Касовий збір відомих стрічок, як, наприклад, "Пірати Карибського моря" в Україні обчислюють мільйонами гривень.

За таких умов Богдан Батрух не пошкодує кількасот тисяч на якісний переклад, навіть із залученням зірок. Каже, що все-одно залишиться у виграші. Тому й меморандумом задоволений.

Відповідно до меморандуму, до кінця року їх повинно бути половина. При чому, прокатники в праві обирати, буде це дубляж, чи титрування. Щодо іноземних фільмів для дітей, то до 2007-го вони 100% мусять демонструватися з українським перекладом.

Міністр культури і туризму України Юрій Богуцький каже, що поступово вони наблизять частку дубльованих українською фільмів у кінотеатрах до ста відсотків.

Нині в Україні лише 20% у кінотеатрах мають україномовну версію. В Україні ще немає повного циклу дубляжу. Для того, щоб усі компанії мали змогу перекладати та озвучувати фільми, на кіностудії імені Довженка створять спеціальну структуру.

Цього року на її фінансування влада виділить 10 мільйонів гривень. Однак, чи не основна проблема з українським дубляжем полягає в тому, що у частині регіонів – переважно на Півдні та Сході – населення звикло дивитися фільми з російським перекладом.

Демонстратори побоюються, що державна мова там може значно зменшити потік глядача. Щоб цього не сталося, наступ на тамтешні кінозали не буде різким.

Міністр Юрій Богуцький каже, що вони поступового збільшуватимуть частку україномовних перекладів, слідкуючи за всіма процесами.

Окрім цього, більшість демонстраторів, а також чиновники з міністерства вважають, що мовою оригіналу варто демонструвати фільми, зняті в Росії.

У Харкові розгортається шпигунський скандал

Олена Солодовнікова, *Радіо Свобода*

Секретар міськради Геннадій Кернес звинуватив Службу безпеки України у тому, що за ним стежать. У свою чергу начальник Управління СБУ в Харківській області Андрій Мухатаєв заявив, що Геннадій Кернес незаконно затримав співробітника його відомства, який виконував свої обов'язки.

Начальник Управління СБУ в Харківській області Андрій Мухатаєв повідомив пресу про те, що 20 січня пізно ввечері був затриманий і примусово утримувався співробітник його відомства. У цих діях правоохоронець звинуватив секретаря міськради Геннадія Кернеса.

Ситуацію коментує начальник прес-служби СБУ Олександр Манжос: "Співробітник СБУ був при виконанні службових обов'язків. Він представився, показав посвідчення і діяв у межах, чітко визначених законодавством. Натомість по відношенню нього були скоєні протиправні дії".

У Геннадія Кернеса інша версія подій. Він каже, що вийшов з роботи і помітив, як за ним стежить чоловік. За словами Кернеса, ця людина їхала за ним до готелю "Націонаь", де є офіс посадовця.

Біля будівлі охоронець секретаря міськради звернувся до підозрілого, на його думку, чоловіка. Геннадій Кернес: "Попросив цього громадянина показати документи, які б могли засвідчити його особу. На що цей громадянин відповів, що документів не має, що він чекає дружину. Спочатку він казав, що він мочився, потім, що він чекає дружину. Все це насторожило".

Геннадій Кернес каже, що викликав міліцію. Затриманий чоловік виявився співробітником СБУ. За словами Кернеса, в нього були спеціальні пристрої для стеження: "Там були представники прокуратури, які ставили питання затриманому офіцеру, і він сказав, що не має претензій до Геннадія Кернера, все було в рамках закону".

Черновецький референдума не боїться

Роман Лебідь для Бі-Бі-Сі

Міський голова Києва Леонід Черновецький заявив, що не боїться можливого проведення референдуму стосовно висловлення йому недовіри і вважає його лише піар-ходом політичних опонентів.

Нині в Києві над створенням ініціативних груп для проведення референдуму працюють кілька політичних сил та громадських організацій. Вони планують поставити киянам запитання про доцільність припинення повноважень міського голови і Київради п'ятого скликання.

Заяви щодо проведення зборів для створення ініціативних груп до держадміністрації, окрім ініціаторів – партії «Батьківщина» - подали вже кілька політичних сил: блок «Наша Україна», партія «Реформи і порядок», а також громадське об'єднання «Велика Україна».

Депутат Київради Михайло Бродський розповідає, що всі вони діятимуть злагоджено, а розділилися лише для більшої ефективності втілення задуманого.

Однак, опозиційні партії припускають, що Київрада не зареєструє ініціативні групи з проведення референдуму і готуються до судового оскарження таких можливих дій. Депутат Київради від блоку Кличка Володимир Бондаренко запевняє, що є достатньо правових підстав для проведення опитування громадської думки щодо довіри столичній владі.

"Ми вважаємо, що ані Леонід Черновецький, ані Київрада, не мають морального і юридичного права далі керувати столицею. Вони обманули киян, тому що їхні передвиборчі гасла не передбачали такого розподілу земель, майна, фінансових ресурсів, який сьогодні фактично здійснюється. А перехід багатьох депутатів в інші фракції свідчить про те, що вони обманули киян вдвічі."

Володимир Бондаренко також занепокоєний великою кількістю охоронців керівництва Київради, які, за його словами, б'ють депутатів.

Запеклий опонент столичного голови Михайло Бродський також вважає, що підстав для зняття Леоніда Черновецького з посади достатньо, хоча його аргументи звучать не дуже переконливо:

"За що вигнати Черновецького? Для цього є багато причин. Тільки коли його бачиш по телебаченню – вже хочеться вигнати..."

Михайло Бродський вважає, що за рік керівництва Леоніда Черновецького в столиці нічого не змінилося накраще, а громадяни перебувають у стані "душевного стресу" через те, що часто стоять у автомобільних пробках.

Чи не головною причиною для висловлення недовіри меру Києва стало його рішення про значне підняття тарифів на комунальні послуги. Сам Леонід Черновецький вважає, що не вчинив нічого незаконного і каже, що не знає, як в найдорожчому місті країни зробити нижчі тарифи, ніж в інших. Він також запевняє, що ціни на комунальні послуги в столиці далеко не найвищі, а зарплати тут в середньому втричі більші, ніж у решті міст.

Коментуючи можливе проведення референдуму, міський голова Києва послуговувався більше брутальними образами, ніж конкретними аргументами:

"Референдум сьогодні провести нереально. Робити це можна лише з метою самопіару. Для цього Тимошенко і Бродський поїхали по святих місцях. Правда, я не знаю, в яку церкву вони разом пішли, тому що Бродський не дуже великий любитель церков."

Депутати-ініціатори референдуму сподіваються, що їм вдасться провести його навесні цього року.

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Ukrainian Foreign Minister in limbo

By Pavel Korduban

(Jamestown Foundation)—Ukraine's Foreign Ministry has become hostage to a constitutional reform that failed to clearly define the boundaries between the remits of the legislature and the executive. President Viktor Yushchenko insists that parliament's Dec. 1 motion to dismiss pro-Western Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk was illegal, so he has to carry on in his post. Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych, however, believes that the country has no foreign minister, so Yushchenko should appoint one. Meanwhile, the ministry works in a legal limbo. Not only are Ukraine's foreign partners uncertain about Tarasyuk's status, but so are domestic officials; even the financing of the ministry is unstable.

According to the constitutional amendments passed in 2004, the president appoints the ministers of foreign affairs and defense, whereas it is up to the parliamentary majority to appoint the rest of the cabinet. The procedure for dismissing the two ministers is evidently less clear. Yanukovych and the parliamentary majority, which is dominated by his Party of Regions (PRU), refer to the constitutional provision that says it is up to parliament to decide on dismissing ministers. President Yushchenko, however, insists that only he, as the highest official in charge of security, defense, and foreign affairs, can dismiss the ministers he appointed.

After Tarasyuk's dismissal by parliament, Yushchenko issued a decree instructing him to remain in place. Yanukovych ignored the decree. PRU deputies then prevented Tarasyuk from attending cabinet meetings on Dec. 6 and 20, physically blocking him in the lobby. On Dec. 21, Yushchenko said that he was waiting for an interpretation of the misunderstanding on Tarasyuk by the Constitutional Court, but that meanwhile Tarasyuk would represent his ministry during Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to Kyiv on Dec. 22. Yanukovych did not object, at least in public, and Tarasyuk shook hands with Putin as a minister.

Yanukovych's attitude toward Tarasyuk's visit to the Czech Republic on Jan. 15 was, however, different. "It damages the state when a minister with unclear status goes on such visits," Yanukovych said. In Prague, Tarasyuk signed two documents on bilateral cooperation. Commenting for *Segodnya*, Deputy Minister of the Cabinet of Ministers Olena Lukash doubted the legal value of documents "signed by citizen Tarasyuk." Yanukovych instructed the Prosecutor General's Office "to take measures" in relation to Tarasyuk. It has so far remained unclear what measures were meant and whether the prosecutors have taken any of them. Yanukovych also wrote an official letter urging Yushchenko to appoint a replacement to Tarasyuk. The letter has reportedly remained unanswered.

On Jan. 16, the Foreign Affairs Ministry issued a statement saying that Yanukovych was informed on Jan. 10 that Tarasyuk's visit to Prague had been agreed with Yushchenko. And Czech Ambassador to Ukraine Karel Stindl was quoted as saying that "for us Tarasyuk is still the foreign minister." *Segodnya*, a newspaper linked to the PRU, explained the Czech position saying that Prague had not been properly informed about Tarasyuk's dismissal.

The State Treasury, unsure of Tarasyuk's status, stopped financing the Foreign Ministry as of Jan. 1. The Finance Ministry said that it opened budget funding for the Foreign Ministry as usual, but the ministry's bills were not paid because it did not provide the proper signatures of the officials in charge of budget funds. The Foreign Ministry did submit signatures, but those were the signatures of Tarasyuk and his first deputy Volodymyr Ohryzko, which the State Treasury did not recognize as valid.

Tarasyuk issued a statement on Jan. 18 describing the actions of the finance officials as an "assault on Ukrainian democracy and the national interests." The Foreign Ministry also sued the State Treasury. The financial conflict was eventually resolved, but not with the help of courts. On Jan. 22, Tarasyuk told TV that Yanukovych had instructed the State Treasury to unblock his ministry's accounts following a telephone conversation between Tarasyuk and Yanukovych.

That was obviously only a temporary solution. The sides to the conflict are waiting for a verdict from the Constitutional Court. Lower courts have been so far only complicated matters. On Dec. 5 the court of Kyiv's Shevchenkivsky District ruled to suspend parliament's motion to dismiss Tarasyuk. One month later, on Jan. 4, the Kyiv Court of Appeals canceled the district court's ruling.

The situation is further complicated by uncertainty over the new law on the Cabinet of Ministers. Parliament overrode Yushchenko's veto of the law that strengthens the cabinet and parliament vis-à-vis the president. Yushchenko has, however, vetoed the law again. He explained that there were differences between the version of the law passed by parliament and the one sent to him for signing. In the case of Tarasyuk, the law is not on Yushchenko's side, stipulating that parliament can both dismiss the foreign minister and appoint a new one if the president fails to do so.

Court prohibits Moroz from signing law reducing Yushchenko's powers

(Ukrainian Journal)—A local court ruling in the TransCarpathian region on Jan. 22 banned Parliament Speaker Oleksandr Moroz from signing the controversial law that dramatically reduces powers of President Viktor Yushchenko.

The ruling on a case, which was filed by a Yushchenko loyalist, has also prohibited state and private newspapers from publishing the law, a requirement for any law to come into effect.

The TransCarpathian region is the stronghold of Viktor Baloha, the chief of staff at the Yushchenko office.

The developments suggest the Yushchenko office has been taking steps to prevent the signing of the law, which may lead to the constitutional crisis and standoff between the president and the government.

Yushchenko vetoed the law on Jan. 18, but Moroz had later questioned this decision urging the president to sign the law into effect, Otherwise, Moroz warned, he would sign the law.

The law allows the pro-government coalition to nominate and to appoint foreign and defense ministers if the president fails to make the nomination within 15 days after the jobs become vacant.

The law would effectively allow the pro-Russian coalition to immediately replace pro-Western Foreign Minister Boris Tarasiuk, an advocate of Ukraine's quick accession to NATO.

Although the coalition had voted to oust Tarasiuk last month, Yushchenko called the dismissal illegal and had issued a decree re-assuring Tarasiuk's authority. This decree was questioned by the government.

Arseniy Yatseniuk, the first deputy chief of staff at the Yushchenko office, said the law would violate the constitution, which allows only the president to nominate foreign and defense ministers.

Yatseniuk asked lawmakers to replace controversial clauses of the law during the next debate of the law in Parliament.

"If the president's propositions are not taken into account... there will be reasons to believe that the president's appeal to the Constitutional Court would seek canceling the entire law," Yatseniuk said.

Lawmakers, following a deal between Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych and opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko, sought to override the president's veto when they had voted overwhelmingly the previous week to approve the law.

But due to a technical mistake in Parliament's secretariat, the approved law had a slightly different text compared with the law previously vetoed by the president. This allowed the president to again veto the controversial law.

PM's ally Kushnariov dies of wounds

(Ukrainian Journal)—Yevhen Kushnariov, a prominent lawmaker and an ally of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych, died on Jan. 17 of gunshot wounds apparently received as a result of a hunting incident, officials said.

Yanukovych, who learned of the death while visiting Turkey, cut short his official visit and returned to Ukraine, underscoring political impact of Kushnariov's death. Kushnariov was 55.

Kushnariov was the leading spokesman at the Regions Party, the pro-government group, and has been frequently pushing for an aggressive line in the government's battle with pro-Western President Viktor Yushchenko.

Kushnariov is also thought to have had close links with the Kremlin. These links have strengthened after the Orange Revolution, a pro-democracy uprising in Ukraine in November 2004.

"It's really an irreparable loss," Konstantin Zatulin, the head of the Moscow-based Institute for the CIS Countries, a pro-Kremlin think tank, said. "Being a patriot of Ukraine, he was a true friend of Russia."

Kushnariov managed election campaign of the Regions Party, a group led by Yanukovych, helping the party to collect the biggest number of votes in March 2006 and to eventually form the pro-Russian government in August 2006.

Born in Kharkiv, Kushnariov was one of few senior members of the Regions Party not directly affiliated with Donetsk, the stronghold of Yanukovych and other party officials.

"Without him, the Regions Party will become more Donetsk-focused, losing a considerable part of electorate elsewhere in the process," Andriy Okara, a political scientist, said.

Kushnariov died of a heart failure at an intensive care unit in a hospital in Izium, the Kharkiv region, a day after apparently coming under friendly fire during hunting.

The wounds were so bad that his kidney failed on Jan. 16 after a 6-hour surgery, while other organs had been also badly affected. The patient's condition did not allow airlifting him to a hospital in Germany as had been originally planned.

A group of German doctors was flown to Izum on a special charter plane, but the group had arrived too late, according to media reports.

Police has been investigating the shooting incident, but no names have been officially disclosed.

Kushnariov and a group of 10 hunters have apparently spotted a wolf and opened fire. One of the bullets had apparently critically wounded Kushnariov, officials have said.

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Українські Вісті це незалежна газета, яка сама утримується із передплат, оголошень та пожертв на пресовий фонд. Просимо підтримувати нашу газету повищими джерелами. Дякуємо заздалегідь за Вашу підтримку.

Citizenship Act overhaul urgently needed

Jan. 23 CBC News reported that hundreds of people are suddenly discovering that they are not Canadians as new laws requiring travellers to have a passport to fly to the U.S. go into effect.

Many applying for a Canadian passport have been informed their chance to remain a citizen expired years ago because of an obscure provision in the CitizenshipAct, a little-known law that applied between 1947 and 1977.

The law states that if you lived outside Canada on your 24th birthday and failed to sign the right form, you automatically lost your citizenship.

This is just the latest in a series of bizarre developments that result from this seriously flawed legislation.

Members of the Ukrainian community in Canada are well aware of how draconian the Citizenship Act can be. Under pressure from Ukrainophobic leaders of such groups as the Canadian Jewish Congress and B'nai Brith, the Liberal government in 1995 initiated the citizenship revocation process to target Ukrainian victims of Nazi oppression as so-called "Nazi war criminals" without even bothering to charge them with any individual crimes. This was in direct contradiction to its own stated policies and a Federal Appeals Court ruling made that point precisely.

Kitchener-Waterloo Liberal MP Andrew Telegdi, a long-standing champion of reforming this legislation, has documented many other examples of how the Citizenship Act victimizes individual Canadians. Among them:

- People who were Canadian-born and Canadian citizens, but got their citizenship taken away when their father took out citizenship in another country.
- War Brides from WWII. Approximately 43,000 women are at risk.
- Their foreign-born children, all 22,000 of them. In an ironic twist, Senator Roméo Dallaire, born in Holland to a war-bride mother, found himself entangled in CIC's web.
- Border babies — children born on the American side of the Canadian/U.S. border.
- So-called Benner children. The old law was very specific to children born in or out of wedlock. The Benner case had to do with foreign-born children of a foreign father and Canadian mother. The Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the 1947 Citizenship Act was blatantly discriminatory, thus granting citizenship to what has become known as the Benner children.
- Children born in wedlock (between January 1, 1947 and February 15, 1977) to a non-citizen father and a citizen mother.

The way to rectify all these anomalies is very clear. It is present in the recommendations of Parliament's Standing Committee of Citizenship and Immigration, which Telegdi chaired in the previous parliament, and which were tabled before the House of Commons on June 7, 2005. The report received unanimous concurrence from the House on June 16, 2005.

Ten out of the 12 members of that committee, including all three Conservatives endorsed the majority report.

During last year's election campaign the Conservative Party promised to implement the changes in response to a questionnaire sent out by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

But on May 10, 2006, then Citizenship and Immigration Minister Monte Solberg told the standing committee that implementing these changes was not a priority item for him.

We do not yet know what the position of the new minister, Diane Finley, is, but we hope that she will give the much-needed overhaul of the Citizenship Act her utmost consideration.

It is most abundantly clear that such an overhaul, which would make the Citizenship Act consistent with Canada's Constitution, is a matter of urgency, and an issue which should be supported by all the parties represented in the House.

The Best and the Worst List for 2006

By Oksana Bashuk Hepburn

Almost everyone has a favorite list or two this time of year ¡ª best movies, best books, and person of the year. For the fourth year I am putting forward my BEST and WORST list, BaWL, dealing with things of particular interest to the global Ukrainian community. This years' list is particularly critical of Ukraine's and other governments but it includes exceptional individuals, publications, organizations, awards, that contributed to or undermined Ukrainian issues in 2006.

Best

1. Yulia Tymoshenko, leader of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, for obtaining the highest number of votes in the March 2006 elections to Ukraine's Rada, parliament from the Orange forces. And for persistent attempts to honour the will of the people of Ukraine by cobbling an Orange power coalition for dominance in Ukraine's parliament and attempting to form and lead a government.

2. The people of Ukraine for expressing their disapproval of President Yushchenko's months of indecisiveness after the March parliamentary elections which led to the creation of an anti-West government by Prime Minister Victor Yanukovych.

3. Ed Stelmach, winner of Alberta's provincial Progressive Conservative party leadership race. He is now the Premier of Alberta.

4. Ukraine's media, for being well on its way to meeting a global standard for independent reporting and critical analyses.

5. The Taras Shevchenko Foundation in Winnipeg, for establishing the Kobzar Award to honour literary works on Ukrainian themes published in Canada.

6. Alexis Kochan, the magical songstress and her latest CD *Fragmenti*. Original, lyrical and beautiful.

7. Ukraine's football team for its super performance at the World Cup in Germany this summer.

8. Heidi Marie Stefanyshyn Piper, the American astronaut of Ukrainian and German decent, who flew a space mission last summer. She is the second female astronaut of Ukrainian descent in space. The first was Canada's Roberta Bondar.

9. Jack Palance for providing prominence to his Ukrainian heritage on and off screen. *Vichnaja pamjat'*.

10. Yaroslav Kokodyniak for ten years of invaluable internet services www.infoukes.com to the global Ukrainian community.

UkrNews Ed. Note: We would have included (in the above category) Gerard Kennedy for becoming the first Canadian of Ukrainian origin to run for the leadership of a major Canadian federal party, playing the pivotal role in selecting the actual winner, beating the party establishment in the process and setting himself up as the Liberal heir apparent and potential first Ukrainian Canadian Prime Minister of Canada.

Worst

1. President Victor Yushchenko for failing to carry out the will of the people who gave the Orange forces a slight majority in the March Rada, parliament elections by failing to call them to power for months until it was to late.

2. Victor Yanukovych, then leader of the Party of Regions, for blocking entrance to Ukraine's Rada and denying the Orange government coalition from taking its rightful place as the government. And again, for recently blocking access to parliament to Foreign Minister Borys Tarasiuk.

3. Ukrainian Diaspora organizations in the free world, including the World Congress of Ukrainians (Askold Lozynsky, President, wrote a personal denunciation of the events), Ukrainian Canadian Congress, for failing to condemn the undemocratic events in Ukraine Ñ items 1 and 2 above Ñ thus giving tacit consent to the anti-Ukrainian, anti-West, anti-democratic and pro-Russian developments which are contrary to the wishes and spirit of the Orange revolution which had swept the country the previous year and contrary to the mandates of such Diaspora organizations.

4. Western governments who failed to use suasion to convince President Victor Yushchenko to honour the results of the March elections and offer the Prime Ministerial job to the Orange forces winner, Yulia Tymoshenko.

5. Minister of Energy Yurij Boyko for selling out Ukraine's energy sector in favour of Russia, RusUkrEnergo, *et al.*

6. The author, signatories and all the eminent witnesses to President Yushchenko's Universal of national unity, a worthless initiative as it has no consequence for non-compliance.

7. Jerusalem Post for its anti-Ukrainian article written in conjunction to the grand opening in Ukraine, of Stephen Spielberg's film *Spell Your Name*.

8. Dmytro Tabachnyk, Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine, for his public statements undermining the Ukrainian language in Ukraine.

9. The virtual lack of protest form Ukraine's President, Prime Minister, government the people of Ukraine or the Ukrainian Diaspora calling for resignation, retraction, apology for abuses sited in # 7 and #8.

10. The self mutilation and suicide of *Nasha Ukrajina*, Our Ukraine, party and its inability to recoup losses by joining forces with Yulia Tymoshenko who continues to hold strong popular support with Ukraine's people.

Poland should offer redress for 'Akcja Wisla'

Statement by the Ukrainian World Congress

On April 28, 1947 the government of Poland commenced the implementation of a military operation, *Akcja Wisla,* to relocate the inhabitants of those Ukrainian ethnic territories that had become part of the post-war Polish state, and dispersed them in non-concentrated numbers throughout western and northern Poland. When *Akcja Wisla* was completed, some 150,000 Ukrainians had been forcibly relocated and several thousand Ukrainian civilians including women, children and clergy had been interned in the Central Labour Camp in Jaworzno, at the site of what had once been a branch of the Nazi death camp in Auschwitz. To date no serious attempt has been made by the government of the now democratic Republic of Poland to redress this wrong.

In 1990 the Polish Senate condemned *Akcja Wisla* as the evil doing of a communist totalitarian regime. In 2002 Polish President Kwasniewski in a letter to a scholarly conference condemned the action as well, acknowledging Polish guilt but offering no redress. The Polish Sejm (Parliament), the most powerful legislative organ, has refused to address this issue. Some Polish officials have justified the ethnic cleansing during *Akcja Wisla* as a necessary step in liquidating the remnants of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, a guerilla formation operating in Ukraine as well as in Ukrainian ethnic territories, which became part of post-war Poland. This argument must be rejected as unacceptable, since in the post-war period in Poland various, more numerous Polish guerilla movements were active, but ethnic cleansing of the entire population was used only against the Ukrainian population.

Other officials have justified it as ÒpaybackÓ for Ukrainian atrocities against Poles on Ukrainian territory. However, this argument is of recent vintage and began to appear in publications some 50 years after *Akcja Wisla*. Such justification was not used in contemporary documents and propaganda.

Compensation has been offered to many Polish inmates of the Jaworzno concentration camp, but none to Ukrainians. The lack of compensation to Ukrainian inmates of Jaworzno has been justified officially by the assertion that compensation is due only to those who were persecuted for political or religious activity related to the struggle for an independent and sovereign Poland. The consequence has been that even Ukrainians sent to the Central Labour Camp in Jaworzno without any proof of guilt or court sentences are deemed not to qualify for rehabilitation or compensation.

The ethnic cleansing of all Ukrainians during *Akcja Wisla* from the most westerly parts of the Ukrainian ethnic territory is a major tragedy suffered by the Ukrainian people, following the Great Famine of 1932-33 and the terrible losses of WWII. The avowed refusal of the Government of the Republic of Poland to condemn, redress and compensate *Akcja Wisla* is being addressed by the Ukrainian World Congress to the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union and the United Nations. The UWC believes that significant pressure must be imposed on the Polish government by governments of other countries before Poland does what is right. For this reason, we appeal to the President of Ukraine and Ukrainian communities throughout the world: join your Ukrainian brethren who suffered this injustice in commemorating this tragedy with requiems and conferences. To the President of Ukraine in particular we say: make this issue a component of contemporary Ukrainian-Polish relations. To our communities throughout the world we say: bring this matter to the attention of your governments so that they may impress upon the government of the Republic of Poland the need to address and redress in good faith and with reasonable tangibility.

Akcja Wisla is not merely a remnant of a nefarious past. It is very much a part of the lives of the contemporary Ukrainian community in Poland. The government of Poland must recognize that the Republic of Poland is not merely the home of a largely homogeneous Polish population but the indigenous homeland of other nationalities, including Ukrainians.

Askold S. Lozynskyj. President; Jurij Darewych, Chair, Commission on Human and Civil Rights

Ukraine's domestic and foreign prospects for 2007

By Taras Kuzio

(Jamestown Foundation)—Ukraine's domestic and foreign prospects in 2007 depend upon the resolution of the political and constitutional crisis that began in 2006. Failure to resolve this ongoing crisis will lead to stagnation and a possible retreat from some of the gains of the Orange Revolution.

This year will see the continuation of the Viktor Yanukovych government and the anti-crisis parliamentary coalition. The coalition's Achilles heel is the Socialist Party (SPU), which has little possibility of being elected to the next parliament as long as it continues to remain in the coalition. The Yanukovych government's first 150 days have been widely criticized inside Ukraine for a lack of strategy, disinterest in reforms, no transparency, and the return of discredited personnel from the Leonid Kuchma era.

This year will also see growing demands for the Constitutional Court to reverse the infamous constitutional reforms, which transferred some presidential powers to parliament. U.S. Judge Bohdan Futey, a long-time adviser on legal reform in Ukraine, told *Ukrayinska pravda* Jan. 9 that Ukraine's constitutional reforms could be considered "illegitimate." The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, which has consistently opposed the reforms, and Our Ukraine will support their reversal.

The constitutional reforms could be abolished through a national referendum this year, as the Constitutional Court mandated in a November 2006 ruling. The Party of Regions has threatened to add two additional questions to any referendum, such as supporting the elevation of Russian to a second state language and on Ukraine's membership of NATO.

The Tymoshenko Bloc has been consistent in its demand for early parliamentary elections, although leading deputy Mykola Tomenko is skeptical that this will take place in 2007. Starting this fall, the opposition will therefore begin to prepare for the October 2009 presidential elections. President Viktor Yushchenko will increasingly be seen as a lame-duck president, and that the main election contest in 2009 will therefore be between Yanukovych and Tymoshenko.

This year will also see the growth of a united opposition to the anti-crisis coalition that will build a protest movement similar to that which emerged during the Kuchmagate crisis. Then and now, the main opposition force is the Tymoshenko Bloc, with the difference being that it now has the second-largest parliamentary faction.

The Tymoshenko Bloc has been strengthened by an alliance with the Reforms and Order Party. The opposition coalition will be augmented by defectors from Our Ukraine grouped around Mykola Katerynchuk's European Platform for Ukraine and SPU defector Yuriy Lutsenko's Civil Movement for People's Self-Defense.

In the foreign policy domain, Ukraine's 2007 prospects look poor. The domestic crisis and the failure to re-establish an Orange coalition following the March 2006 parliamentary elections has led to a de facto return of multi-vectorism in Ukraine's foreign policy. Multi-vectorism is a product of different foreign policy orientations espoused by the president and prime minister. One anticipated foreign policy success is Ukraine's entry into the WTO ahead of Russia, which will give Kyiv added leverage in its trade and energy negotiations with Moscow.

In addition, the EU has offered to begin negotiations with Ukraine on a free trade area following its WTO membership. These negotiations will begin in the second half of 2007, but they are unlikely to be concluded until the first half of 2008. Ukraine will also negotiate a visa-free regime with the EU.

This year will be the last of the ten-year Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) between the EU and Ukraine. An Enhanced Agreement and European Neighborhood Policy-Plus (ENP+) will replace the PCA. However, neither of these two formulations, like the PCA, offers future EU membership for Ukraine.

These developments will strengthen the European vector in Ukraine's foreign policy and, coupled with an increasingly more belligerent Russia, will make the CIS Single Economic Space less attractive for Ukraine's elites.

The greatest disappointment in 2007 will be in Ukraine's relations with NATO. Ukraine's opportunity of being invited into a Membership Action Plan (MAP) at NATO's November 2006 Riga summit was squandered by the inability of President Yushchenko and Our Ukraine to place national interests above personal conflicts with Tymoshenko.

Ukraine's recent cooperation with NATO is at a higher level than that under Kuchma, as Ukraine was invited in 2005 to join the Intensified Dialogue on Membership. Nevertheless, Ukraine is continuing the Kuchma-era policy of intensive cooperation with NATO while not seeking membership. NATO membership will not return to the domestic agenda until the country's next election cycle (in 2009-2011) is completed.

Intensive cooperation with NATO could be undermined if Defense Minister Anatoliy Hrytsenko is removed, as the anti-crisis coalition has threatened following its unconstitutional dismissal of Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk in November 2006. Hrytsenko is the only Orange minister left in the Yanukovych government, and his support for Ukraine's NATO membership is at odds with that of the anti-crisis coalition and government.

Yushchenko faces NATO referendum problem

By Pavel Korduban

(Jamestown Foundation)—Signatures have been collected in Ukraine in favor of holding a referendum on membership in NATO and the Single Economic Space — a loose economic union with Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan. The Central Electoral Commission (CEC) has confirmed that the signatures are valid. Pro-Western President Viktor Yushchenko is against the referendum, however, because the answer on NATO will most probably be no, as NATO is unpopular in Ukraine. What initially looked like a hopeless campaign by political outsiders may badly affect the country's NATO membership prospect. The SES membership issue is not as controversial, as apparently neither Yushchenko nor Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych is against it in principle.

The signature collection campaign was launched by the Social Democratic Party-United (SDPUo) of Viktor Medvedchuk, a former key aide to former president Leonid Kuchma, in October 2005. The SDPUo, along with the Communists (CPU), used the issue in the run-up to the April 2006 parliamentary election to capitalize on the pro-Russian sentiment in eastern and southern Ukraine. This did not help them much, as the SDPUo lost the election, and the CPU got only 20 seats in the 450-strong parliament. In any case, the organizers submitted to the CEC in March 2006 far more than the three million signatures legally required for a referendum.

At least 200,000 signatures were falsified, and 28 related criminal cases were launched, according to CEC chief Yaroslav Dadydovych. Nevertheless, on Dec. 29 the CEC officially approved the validity of more than four million signatures. Davydovych told a press conference that the commission has done what it legally was obliged to do, and now it is up to Yushchenko to sign the relevant decree to schedule the vote. Yushchenko's secretariat has not concealed its skepticism. The secretariat will check the authenticity of the signatures once again, Yushchenko's press secretary Iryna Vannykova announced on Dec. 30.

Yanukovych was less doubtful. "A state body not subordinated to any branch of power [i.e. the CEC] has delivered its verdict, which we have to abide by," the press service of Yanukovych's Party of Regions quoted him as saying. Yanukovych noted that this is probably not the best time for a referendum on NATO and the SES, but "if we live according to laws of a democratic society, we have to respect and fully abide by democratic principles, irrespective of the context or individuals involved." The CPU, predictably, welcomed the development. CPU leader Petro Symonenko urged parliament on Jan. 9 to do all it can to compel Yushchenko to call a referendum.

Segodnya, a newspaper critical of Yushchenko, has quoted analyst Volodymyr Malynkovych as saying that, according to the constitution, Yushchenko will have to call a referendum. But Yushchenko may delay this for as long as he wants, as no law compels him to make a decision immediately, Malynkovych noted. Another expert quoted by Segodnya, former parliament deputy speaker Viktor Musiyaka, pointed to a discrepancy between the constitution and the 1991 law on referenda, which obliges parliament's presidium — a body scrapped more than a decade ago — rather than the president to set the date for a referendum.

Analyst Volodymyr Fesenko told *Segodnya* that neither Yushchenko nor Yanukovych are interested in a referendum on NATO and the SES. He suggested, however, that Yanukovych might push for such a referendum if Yushchenko insists on a referendum to reverse constitutional reform. This means that Yanukovych and the majority in parliament, which supports him, may use the NATO and SES referendum threat as a tool to thwart Yushchenko's plan to reverse the constitutional amendments that significantly weakened the president vis-à-vis parliament.

Popular support for NATO membership has been hovering around 20% during the past six years or so, according to various opinion polls, so the negative result of a referendum is easy to predict. Another referendum on the same issue may be held only after five years, according to the law on referenda. The same law leaves to parliament the option to override referendum results by a two-thirds vote. Yushchenko's Our Ukraine bloc, which is the only consistently pro-NATO force in parliament, is very far from controlling two-thirds, even if it secures support of the opposition Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc. This means that a referendum on NATO could put off Ukraine's membership bid until at least 2011, when the next parliamentary election is due to be held. It will also strengthen doubts in the West about the seriousness of Ukraine's NATO choice.

The Declaration of National Unity that both Yushchenko and Yanukovych signed in August 2006 stipulates that a referendum should be held as the last stage of the NATO accession process. The Declaration is more ambiguous on the SES, containing no referendum requirement, linking Ukraine's membership of SES to World Trade Organization rules and urging a free-trade zone as the prerequisite for full participation in the SES. Opinion polls show that more than half of Ukrainians support SES membership for the country.

EU ready to talk with Ukraine on 'enhanced agreement'

(RFE/RL)—European Union foreign ministers on Jan. 22 approved a mandate for talks with Ukraine on a new cooperation agreement including a possible free-trade deal, Reuters and dpa reported.

Poland and other supporters of Ukraine's EU membership bid wanted the mandate to include a mention of Ukraine's "European aspirations," but this formulation was opposed by other EU members.

"Through this agreement, the EU aims to build an increasingly close relationship with Ukraine, aimed at gradual economic integration and deepening of political cooperation," the EU foreign ministers said in a statement.

"A new enhanced agreement shall not prejudge any possible future developments in EU-Ukraine relations," the statement adds.

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PETER GOLDRING
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"Les Quebecois: A Nation"

Many are wondering why there has been all the fuss in Parliament about "Les Quebecois as a Nation" issue.

The issue began when Liberal leadership wannabe Michael Ignatieff, in a desperate appeal to the Quebec votes of his Liberal colleagues, dangled out his support of the present day province of Quebec as a nation.

His disregard for the sensitivity of this issue was apparent as his initiative negligently allowed the separatists an opportunity to further their own agenda.

The Bloc Québécois jumped on the Liberals naivety and tabled a motion in the House of Commons that would declare the province of Quebec a nation. Stephen Harper and the Conservatives masterfully reversed this effort by introducing their own motion that recognizes the special role of les Québécois people within a united Canada: "That this House recognize that the Québécois form a nation within a united Canada."

The motion was debated for hours and then accepted and passed by all parties, nullifying the Bloc motion, which failed to pass.

The Government of Canada recognized a long know historical fact that the Quebecois people of Canada, just like First Nations and Inuit, have contributed greatly to the country we live in today.

Strong leadership demands that when principles are at stake, risks be taken and politics be set aside. The Government believes that national unity and national reconciliation are more important than any one party.

Cheap rhetoric, naïve Liberal political pandering or sponsorship programs will not preserve national unity; rather, strong leadership and concrete action are the only ways to improve our federation.

What do you think?

Is it not right to from time to time give special recognition without strings attached to groups of Peoples who have contributed to Canada?

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Oseredok presents Festival of Carols in Winnipeg

PHOTO — OSEREDOK

The combined choirs of the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Centre Festival of Carols, Sts. Vladimir and Olga Cathedral, Winnipeg.

(Oseredok)—The power of the word was the theme of the Festival of Carols ("Koliada") presented by Oseredok Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Centre in Winnipeg on Julian Calendar New Year's Day, Jan. 14, at the Ukrainian Catholic Metropolitan Cathedral of Sts. Vladimir and Olga.

"Koliada" is the ancient and magical word associated with the pre-Christian celebration of the birth of the New Sun and the Christian celebration of Christmas (Rizdvo). Much of the "koliada" ritual is based on the premise that words and actions, repeated frequently, have the power to bend cosmic forces to one's advantage. Words act as a kind of charm or invocation to bring upon oneself and one's family health and prosperity. "Koliadky" (carols) and "shchedrivky" (New Year songs) are replete with words and phrases that invoke wealth, health and good fortune.

Six Winnipeg based Ukrainian choirs and a trio performed a total of 22 "koliadky" and "shchedrivky" and other Christmas music. The program began with a traditional New Year's greeting ("vinchuvannia") by Danylo Anderson from the Plast Ukrainian Youth Association of Manitoba and was emceed by Sophia Kachor, newly appointed executive director of Oseredok. The first part of the festival featured "koliadky" of Christian origin that glorified the birth of Jesus Christ, the Word that was made flesh and dwelt among us. The Choir of the Ukrainian Catholic Metropolitan Cathedral of Sts. Vladimir and Olga, directed by Miroslava Paches, opened the program with a rendition of four carols with biblical themes. These themes were picked up by the Dumka Choir under the baton of Walter Skakun, including a Ukrainian language version of "O, Holy Night". The Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Metropolitan Choir, conducted by Dr. Jeff Saranchuk, concluded this set.

The second part of the festival highlighted "koliadky" and "shchedrivky" whose refrains embody the power of the word to invoke wealth, health and good fortune. Hoosli Ukrainian Male Chorus, directed by William Solomon, introduced "shchedrivky" with folk legends about the Christmas story. The O. Koshetz, conducted by Corinne Kostenuk-Villebrun, continued in similar vein, adding the theme of courtship and love in "kolidaky". The theme of love and marriage was picked up by the Melos Folk Ensemble led by Michael Ryczak. Andrij Semaniuk, Mikhas Chabluk and Markian McColl from the Ukrainian Youth Association SUM performed the traditional "shchedrivka" *Good Evening, Master of the House* (*Dobry Vechir Tobi, Pane Hospodariu*) with a New Year's greeting by Andrij Semaniuk. The culminating moment of the festival came when the audience joined the combined choirs in singing *God Eternal* (*Boh Predvichny*).

Despite the frosty temperature of -30□C, the church was filled to capacity with over 850 people in attendance. Among the special guests were His Grace Metropolitan Lawrence Huculak, Primate of the Ukrainian Catholic Church of Canada, Archbishop Michael Bzdel and Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael Buyachok, pastor of Sts. Vladimir and Olga Cathedral.

The Festival of Carols was the brainchild of Walter Klymkiw more than 20 years ago. The idea was to bring together the Ukrainian community to share its rich heritage of Christmas music. Initially, the O. Koshetz Choir acted as host for the festival. Later, Klymkiw and the O. Koshetz Choir passed the carolfest torch to Oseredok and Oseredok made the Festival of Carols an annual Winnipeg tradition. "It makes perfect sense," stated Ken Romaniuk, president of Oseredok Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Centre. "Oseredok is an institution about legacy — the legacy of Ukrainian heritage. It thrives on Ukrainian tradition. "Koliada" is a tradition, which exemplifies a strong sense of community, a deep connection with an ancient past and a particularly unique interpretation of the Christmas story."

As Sophia Kachor put it, "The peculiar fusion of ancient beliefs, symbols and magical words with the Christian story of the Word becoming flesh creates an unusual synergy, as if our collective memory were coded to process and respond to elemental and creative forces of long ago. "Koliada" remains one of the most vibrant expressions of our identity, casting its magical spell over us from year to year."

PHOTO — OSEREDOK

Andrij Semaniuk, Mikhas Chabluk, Markian McColl of the Ukrainian Youth Association, SUM, bring New Year's greetings with a carol at the Festival of Carols

PHOTO — DAN IWASCHUK

The Bandurysty Molodtsi performing.

Concert of Carols held in Edmonton

(UkrNews)—Five choirs and two ensembles participated in the Concert of Ukrainian Carols put on by the Ukrainian Music Society of Alberta at McDougall United Church in Edmonton, Jan. 21.

They included: St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church Choir, conducted by Irena Tarnawsky; the St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral Choir conducted by Melanie Turgeon; the Dnipro Choir, conducted by Maria Dytyniak; St. Basil Ukrainian Catholic Church Choir, conducted by Elizabeth Lesoway-Anderson and the Verkhovyna Choir of the Ukrainian Youth Association, conducted by Halyna Lazurko.

Also performing were the Bandurysty Molodtsi (students of the Ukrainian Bilingual Program, Father Kenneth Kearns in Sherwood Park), conducted by Dr. Andriy Hornjatkevyc and the Re Minor Male Ensemble.

Luba Boyko-Bell, President of the Ukrainian Music Society of Alberta gave the opening greetings while Natalia Hrytsiv served as concert host.

PHOTO — MARCO LEVYTSKY

St. Basil's Choir,

PHOTOS — MARCO LEVYTSKY

The organizing committee with Maria Dytyniak.

Dnipro conductor Dytyniak honoured at anniversary

(UkrNews)—Members of the Dnipro Choir and other guests active in Edmonton's Ukrainian cultural and music scene paid tribute to Maria Dytyniak at a surprise banquet held at St. John's Ukrainian Orthodox Cultural Centre, Jan. 21, to commemorate her 30th anniversary as Dnipro's conductor.

"Having been a member of Dnipro for almost 30 years, I stand in awe of Pani Dytyniak and ask myself how does one person accomplish so much and at such a standard of excellence?" noted Dnipro's accompanist Irena Tarnawsky in the keynote address.

"She's the driving force behind Dnipro. She's a benevolent dictator, yet she encourages her executive and artistic team to bring forth their creative ideas. She's a perfectionist, yet she's not afraid of laughing at herself. She is a remarkable leader, an optimist, a great mentor and an even greater friend with a great heart. She has played an important role in the lives of most every Ukrainian choral conductor in Edmonton. Every singer who has passed through the ranks of Dnipro is a better individual for having experienced her inimitable character," she added.

Tarnawsky said Dytyniak "has made it her personal mission to preserve and promote the tradition of Ukrainian choral singing, to research and present new repertoire and to bring Ukrainian music to the mainstream so that all music lovers may experience it."

"Under her leadership, Dnipro has staged two operas, two oratorios, numerous symphonic choral concerts and has performed in countless community concerts. Evidence of the quality of Dnipro's performances under the baton of Maria Dytyniak is archived on 5 recordings and a video of the Neophytes, which was broadcast nationally. Attending a Dnipro concert is a complete musical education in a 2 hour span, with programming covering liturgical selections, the classics of Ukrainian art and folk song, and contemporary works. How fortunate we are to have an artistic director with such vision."

In presenting Dytyniak with a gift brooch on behalf of the choir, Dnipro President Luba Feduschak said "she has given many of us an opportunity to learn, has given many of us an opportunity to be exposed to choral music in a variety of forms — folk songs, opera, classical, spiritual music."

In response, Dytyniak commented that she has an excellent executive to work with, adding that since they take all responsibilities upon themselves she doesn't have to do anything but "just wave my hands around".

She added that she caught the 'music bug" early in life, but that it was nurtured by Dnipro's founder, the late Roman Soltykewych who also encouraged her to learn conducting.

"I simply love that which I do and I believe in that which I do. It seems to me it's like that which our girls sang 'without a dream, you cannot live'. And that dream is actually beauty. Without beauty, without music, absolutely a life is not a full life. That's how I have lived my life and should someone ask would you do it differently, I think not," she said, speaking in Ukrainian.

Born in 1931 in Ukraine, where she began her musical training, Dytyniak continued her education in Austria and in 1958 obtained her teacher certificate at the Royal Conservatory of Music under Edna Marie Hawkins of Montreal. For over 40 years, she has been a member of the Alberta Registered Music Teachers' Association and in 1977 joined the Alberta Choral Directors' Association.

As founder and artistic director of Edmonton's female ensemble Merezhi, Dytyniak was awarded the Certificate of Merit (1975) by the City of Edmonton for her contribution to the field of Women in the Arts. Since 1976, as conductor and artistic director of the Dnipro Choir, she has successfully led this ensemble to great critical acclaim. Her inspirational leadership was in full evidence at the performances of the Ukrainian operas *Kupalo* and *Zaporozhets Beyond the Danube* and of the oratorio *The Neophytes*. Under her direction, the choir has performed internationally and produced a number of albums.

Dytyniak is also the author of *Ukrainian Composers: A Bio-bibliographic Guide*, published in 1986. In 1989, she was awarded an honourary life membership by the Ukrainian Professional and Business Club of Edmonton for her cultural endeavours; in 1998 the Ukrainian Canadian Congress-Alberta Provincial Council honoured her with the Hetman Award; and in 2004 the National UCC presented her with a Taras Shevchenko medal.

A number of greetings from across Canada, as well as those from the National Union of Composers of Ukraine and the All-Ukrainian Folk Music Union, were read during the program by MC's Peter Rolland and Gloria Zaharia.

Greetings were also brought forward personally by Luba Boyko-Bell for the Ukrainian Music Society of Alberta, Ivan Cybulsky for the Ukrainian National Federation and the Ukrainian Women's Organization, Ksenia Maryniak for the Ukrainian Youth Association, Plast for son Ihor in Lviv and the Toronto fan club. Dytyniak's other son, George was present with his family at the event.

A surprised Maria Dytyniak is presented with flowers at the beginning of her surprise tribute at St. John's Ukrainian Orthodox Cultural Centre.

Zaharia spoke about the small groups Dytyniak created, Stephan Melnychenko read sonnets he had written for the occasion, while Andrew Hladyshewsky and Lu Pastuszenko raised a toast to open the program.

Musical numbers were performed by Merezhi, Perlyny, the Two Tenors, Dniprovi Khvyli and the Dnipro Choir as a whole.

The organizing committee for the anniversary consisted of: Luba Feduschak, Darcia Wasarab-Rolland, Susan Romaniuk, Olesia Talpash, Ksenia Maryniak, Natalia Onyschuk, Irena Federkewych, Olga Federkewych Popowycz, Irena Tarnawsky, Roman Konowalec and Gloria Zaharia.

Buy a memory....
Invest in a legacy
Plans continue for an exciting new cultural landmark – the downtown Edmonton location of the Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta (UCAMA). This public heritage museum, archive and community programming facility will preserve and promote the rich Ukrainian cultural heritage and the role it has played in the development of our communities, our province and our country.
Renowned artist PETER SHOSTAK is providing a generous gift of his acclaimed limited edition prints in support of UCAMA. Purchase one today! Buy a memory for yourself... and invest in the legacy of UCAMA's new museum!
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Ректор УКУ Борис Ґудзяк.

Вибори Ректора УКУ

Мирослав Маринович

13 січня 2007 року на своєму засіданні Сенат УКУ у розширеному складі обрав о. д-ра Бориса Гудзяка Ректором цього навчального закладу на нову 5-річну каденцію. Того ж дня Великий Канцлер УКУ Блаженніший Любомир (Гузар), що представляє Засновника Університету – Фонд ім. св. Климентія, затвердив це обрання.

Для аналізу діяльності Ректора та сформованого ним Ректорату впродовж першої каденції за рішенням Сенату в УКУ працювала комісія, члени якої не входять до складу університетської спільноти. Комісія ознайомилась із важливою документацією й на конфіденційній основі опитала представників різних категорій викладачів, працівників і студентів цього Університету. У своїх висновках члени комісії не просто схвалили діяльність Ректора, а й узагальнили ті ідеї та побажання, які були висловлені представниками спільноти УКУ під час конфіденційних бесід.

Діяльність Ректора було одноголосно схвалено також на засіданні Вченої Ради УКУ, на якій було заслухано, зокрема, позитивний відгук Ради студентів, що є вищим органом студентського самоврядування. У своїх висновках Вчена Рада також висловила свої рекомендації новообраному Ректорові щодо подальшого розвитку академічної сфери діяльності УКУ.

Відповідно до Статуту Університету, своїм правом висувати кандидатуру на посаду Ректора скористалися Сенат і Вчена Рада цього закладу. Обидві структури висунули одного і того ж кандидата – діючого Ректора о. д-ра Бориса Ґудзяка. В цьому факті знайшла своє відображення передусім безальтернативність його особи, яка поєднує в собі якості, засадничі для нинішнього етапу розвитку УКУ: наявність бездоганної освіти – докторату з історії, захищеного в Гарварді й доповненого вищою богословською освітою, здобутою в Римі; незаперечний моральний авторитет; високоякісний і діалогічний стиль адміністрування, не обтяжений радянськими стереотипами; наявність чіткої стратегічної візії розвитку Університету й дар будівничого. Крім того, за згаданою вище одностайністю висунення кандидатури о. д-ра Бориса Ґудзяка стоїть визнання того, що Український Католицький Університет не стоїть на роздоріжжі й не вагається у виборі стратегії розвитку.

Вибори Ректора УКУ стали доброю нагодою як для Сенату, так і для його обранця зосередитися на пріоритетах розвитку цього навчального закладу на період нової каденції та підтвердити головні його напрямні. У своєму програмному виступі о. Борис Ґудзяк особливо наголосив на своїй готовності докласти максимальних зусиль до зведення нового сучасного корпусу Університету по вул. Стрийській, що, услід за появою Богословського Центру на вул. Хуторівка, мало б стати ще однією непересічною подією на університетській мапі Львова. Зведення нового дому науки, за задумом о. Ґудзяка, буде супроводжуватися послідовною працею над відкриттям навчальних і наукових програм із соціальних наук, які доповнювали б подальшу розбудову взорованої на міжнародні наукові стандарти школи богословської думки та промоцією нових (чи, може, "добре забутих старих") для України гуманітарних напрямів на зразок медієвістики чи візантиністки. Буде продовжуватися праця над нарощенням кадрового і фінансового потенціалу Університету, що в підсумку мало би посприяти зміцненню інтелектуального престижу Львова і наданню нового динамізму й якості українському академічному середовищу. Варто також згадати, що, як засвідчила конференція молодих богословів "Кайрос", проведена позаторік з ініціативи о. Ґудзяка, кадровий потенціал Церкви (в якому формуються, зокрема, й майбутні ректори УКУ) розвивається надійно і безупинно.

Не було формальним актом і благословення з боку Блаженнішого Любомира, даного ним від імені Засновника. Це підтвердження даного Церквою мандату на те, щоб цей Університет шукав шляхи поєднання віри й розуму, будував храм мудрості на твердому камені християнської духовності. У цьому поновно обраний Ректор, а також УКУ загалом потребуватимуть підтримки партнерів, щедрості доброчинців і щирої молитви людей віри.

Академія медичних наук отримала гуманітарну допомогу від КФДЧ

(КФДЧ)—Канадський Фонд Дітям Чорнобиля як добродійна організація, метою якої є надання допомоги жертвам Чорнобильської катастрофи, вже протягом 17 років підтримує зв'язки з багатьма лікувальними закладами України, вивчає їх потреби та пересилає необхідну допомогу у вигляді медичного обладнання та матеріалів.

Так до Канадського Фонду Дітям Чорнобиля через посередництво доктора Ігора Лоссовського, бувшого Генерального Консула України в Торонто звернулися провідні фахівці Академії медичних наук України з проханням допомогти купити мікроскоп "Olympus BX – 51" для лабораторії імунологічних досліджень.

Завдяки щедрості наших жертводавців лабораторія клінічної імунології Інституту травматології і ортопедії Академії медичних наук України отримала гуманітарну допомогу – найсучасніший мікроскоп "Olympus BX – 51" з цифровою відеокамерою вартістю C$41,770.

Це, - за словами керівника лабораторії, кандидата медичних наук Лесі Панченко, - дозволило науковцям лабораторії значно розширити діагностичні можливості, збільшити обсяг і підвищити якість імунологічних досліджень. З використанням мікроскопу на 27% збільшилась кількість обстежених хворих, розширився діапазон імунологічних досліджень, значно підвищився їх методичний і якісний рівень. Відеокомплекс "Olympus BX – 51" сприяв продовження та поглибленому вивченню регенаторного потенціалу кісткового мозку людей, які зазнали аварії на ЧАЕС. Науковці і лікарі - клінічні імунологи отримали можливість детального вивчення післярадіаційних змін строми кісткового мозку хворих та створення бази даних для контролю ефективності лікування.

Фахівці лабораторії біля відеокомплексу "Olympus BX-51" – Провідний науковий співробітник, Наталія Дехтяренко, науковий співробітник Ольга Соколовська, лікар Ганна Шевченко, лаборант Ірина Сотнік, керівник лабораторії, Леся Панченко.

Доктор Михайло Кондрацький, віце-президент Фонду в червні 2006р. мав нагоду побувати в лабораторії, зустрітись з керівництвом Інституту, провідними фахівцями та обговорити питання, пов'язані з використанням приладу, проблеми забезпечення Інституту сучасним медичним обладнанням. Директор Інституту, член-кореспондент АМН України, професор Георгій Гайко від усієї душі висловив сердечну подяку президенту Роману Степчуку, членам ради директорів і всім людям доброї волі, які передали кошти на купівлю мікроскопу.

Робота по наданню гуманітарної допомоги Україні проводиться Фондом постійно.

У квітні цього року члени медичного комітету – Калина Безхлібник-Батлер (голова комітету), Дана Баган, Кевін Демерчант і Роксоляна Хромей здійснили медичний маршрут по Україні і відвідали всі лікарні, які підтримує КФДЧ – це 19 лікарень в Київській, Житомирській, Львівській, Тернопільській та Івано-Франківській областях.

Це дало можливість більш детально вивчити проблеми медичних закладів, їх потреби та статистику захворювань дітей, які народилися від опромінених батьків або ліквідаторів катастрофи. Якщо порівняти з 1988р., дані дуже невтішні: зросла кількість хронічних захворювань, спостерігаються зміни імунної системи у дітей, підвищилися захворювання органів травлення, нервової системи, особливе місце займає паталогія щитовидної залози та остеопороз кісткових тканин у дітей.

Проблеми здоров'я населення, пов'язані з наслідками катастрофи будуть відчутні ще протягом багатьох років. Канадський Фонд Дітям Чорнобиля продовжує надсилати гуманітарну допомогу українським медичним закладам і вивчає їхні потреби, разом з тим проводячи освітню роботу серед медичного персоналу.

Ми щиро вдячні усім нашим спонсорам і жертводавцям, які підтримують нас, а разом з тим дарують віру і надію, зігрівають теплом своїх сердець і щедрістю душі всіх, кому так неохідна допомога і людська доброта.

Виступ дітей під час програми «Свічечки». ФОТО — АНДРІЙ ШИМАНОВКА

Збірка едмонтонської станиці Пласту при «Свічечці»

Ксеня Мариняк

Едмонтонське відділення УСО «Пласт в Альберті» зібралося в Домівці на традиційну свою «Свічечку» 20 січня ц.р. Програму зорганізували хлопці юнаць-кого куреня ім. Петра Конашевича Сагайдачного та вели Михайло Гнатів і Євген Дитиняк. Вони запро-сили відкрити програму гостя-представника духо-венства о. Миколу Петрущака (УПЦ-К) молитвою та запаленням свічки, котра стояла у сплетеному калачі. [Далі було запрошено запалити свічки в свічнику-трійнику станичного Ярему Шулякевича, як символ злуки з пластунами в Україні; зв'язкових Миколу Білаша та Катрусю Долішню – з плас-тунами по цілому світі; гніздову Віру Пастушенко-Кравець – з усіма українцями.] Голови пластових уладів передали вогонь усім присутнім, щоби згадати ті дедавні часи, коли було заборонено в Україні не то, що патріотичну скавтську організацію «Пласт», а й нашу рідну Церкву, обряд, коляду, вертеп і т.д.

У програмі «Свічечки», як завжди, переплетено виступи дітей – новаків, новачок, юнаків, юначок – із загальним колядуванням. Наймолодші втішили глядачів своїми костюмами сніжинок, ялинок, зайчиків, пастушків, котрі прикрашали їхні форми-одностроі, і гарно заспівали сучасну коляду «Спи, Ісусе, спи» при супроводі сестрички Люби Білаш на гітарі. Старші заколядували з акомпанементом малої оркестри як духових, так і струнних інстру-ментів; юнаки вміло виконували твори в обробці Маркіяна Лазурка.

На кінець, після слова станичного [Яреми Шуля-кевича], усі мали нагоду почастуватися смачною кутею та порозмовляти з друзями і гостями зблизька і здалека — адже, наша пластова родина зустріча-ється на таких збірках заледве три рази в рік. Решта часу діти проводять у зайняттях по уладах та на про-гулянках, мандрівках, таборах. Отож, з особливим настроєм відбулася наша спільна коляда – «Свічечка».

CIUS a boon to Ukrainian studies in Ukraine itself

(UkrNews)—The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies has become " a boon to Ukrainian studies in Ukraine itself," says Dr. Zenon Kohut, Director of the Institute at the University of Alberta.

"The institute is invited as a matter of fact now to various major events in academia in Ukraine. Members of the institute are brought on all sorts of dissertation committees as an outside reviewer. So, we've really become part of that academic Ukrainian scene," he added in a recent interview with Ukrainian News.

Dr. Kohut said virtually everything has changed since independence.

"First of all, I think partially due to the work done at CIUS there has been some preparatory work for this independence, so when independence did come, there was an institution, there were some books published about Ukraine that could be utilized right away by people who are not necessarily in Ukrainian studies, so we provided the service for them. Now, since independence one thing that CIUS has done was to be in the forefront of revamping Ukrainian studies in Ukraine.

"And it is through such projects as the Kowalsky institute at Kharkiv University founded by CIUS and supported by the Kowalsky Endowment Fund in which we try to bring history, literature, art, and regional studies to an area of Ukraine that was very heavily Russified and really lacks these things."

Michael and Daria Kowalsky.

The Michael and Daria Kowalsky Endowment Fund was established by Daria Mucak-Kowalsky and the late Michael Kowalsky (1908–2000) of Toronto in December 1987 to fund academic research, scholarships and scholarly publications.

The government of Alberta matched the initial donation of $100,000 two-to-one.

The Kowalskys' commitment to Ukrainian studies and Ukrainian independence grew directly out of their life experiences. Both grew up as ardent Ukrainian patriots and were actively involved in the social and political life of western Ukraine. Mr. Kowalsky was born in Uhornyky in the Stanyslaviv (now Ivano-Frankivsk) region and obtained his law degree from Lviv University. Mrs. Kowalsky (née Mucak) was born in Burshtyn in the same region and graduated from a private women's teachers' college run by the Basilian Sisters in Stanyslaviv.

In 1998, 1999, and 2000 the Kowalskys increased the capital of their endowment by $1,650,000 and requested that the entire fund be used for the newly established Kowalsky Program for the Study of Eastern Ukraine, which includes funding
for the Kowalsky Eastern Institute of Ukrainian Studies, established at the Kharkiv National University in 2000.

The overall objective of the Kowalsky Program is to support Ukrainian studies and the national revival in eastern Ukraine through the many projects of the Eastern Institute, including scholarly research, the publication of the journal *Skhid-Zakhid* (East-West), and the sponsorship of an annual student research paper competition.

"A lot of materials have been published as memoirs, oral history; we have established a branch in Zaporzhia, which has produced a great number of oral history projects about Ukraine during World War II, Ukraine prior to collectivization, and so on," says Dr. Kohut.

"The strategy is really to expand even further, we want to go to Donetsk and we're discussing that and even Crimea and do as much of this sort of spade work demonstrating pretty much the 'Ukrainianess' of those areas."

Other ways that things have changed since independence is that, the institute has worked with various institutions, mainly the National Academy of Sciences in Ukraine, with various commissions — the historical part, the archaeographic, literature, and various universities to bring new methodologies, to bring in conferences, a change in the way history and various parts of Ukrainian studies is presented in Ukraine.

"A third way we've been really doing that and doing it a lot, is through a very extensive program of grants from over 70 to 80 applicants a year, the vast majority are from Ukraine and in supporting some of these we could support up to 8 or 10 a year from Ukraine, we are then supporting and shaping Ukrainian studies in Ukraine because we choose which projects are being researched," Dr. Kohut added.

Kalyna Country gains momentum and support

(Kalyna Country)—The Kalyna Country Ecomuseum enjoyed another successful year according to Jars Balan, who was responsible for drafting the initial 30-year development strategy for the project. Commissioned in 1991-1992 by Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism and the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, the strategy is now approaching the halfway point in terms of its implementation. Balan shared some of his thoughts on the year that has just passed as preparations moved into high gear on the *2007 Kalyna Country Visitor's and Events Guide*, produced by The Marketer in Vegreville.

"Because of the size of the territory and the limited financial support that could be expected from governments in the early nineties, I anticipated that the ecomuseum would develop in a gradual and piecemeal fashion. Essentially, things have evolved pretty much as planned, with the pace and degree of progress being determined by the availability of funds and volunteer resources, along with the level of support provided by individual communities."

"Consequently, for the first five years we did a lot of preparatory work to get Kalyna Country off the ground, tackling small projects and undergoing extensive planning workshops to craft an effective and realistic marketing strategy. We only began aggressively promoting the region for tourism once we were ready, at the same time turning our ecomuseum tourism committee into a Destination Marketing Organization so that we could fully participate in the new marketing structures being created by the province."

At one point the ecomuseum had a $1500 debt with its late chairman, Michael Senych, who loaned the money so that Kalyna Country could produce its first small brochure. Today, the combined budget of the Trust Society and DMO is approaching $175,000, much of which gets quickly funnelled through the accounts of the two organizations because of the ambitious range and scope of their activities.

"I suspect the ecomuseum budget could more than double in the next five years, given the rate of growth that we are experiencing and the new projects that we are beginning to launch. Our agritourism and branding initiatives are in their early stages, but they will no doubt significantly boost our visibility as well as our cash flow once they are up and fully running."

"I think our biggest achievement to date has been that we've managed to get most of the communities and many different groups in the area to support what we are doing. People have now really grasped the ecomuseum concept, and understand that it is a creative, multifaceted, and grass-roots way of approaching heritage and natural conservation issues in tandem with promoting tourism and economic development. I think everyone also appreciates that we operate as an umbrella organization and a coordinating body, and that we are committed to working in partnerships with various agencies and other non-profit associations."

An indication of the momentum and support enjoyed by the ecomuseum project has been the impressive turnout at recent Kalyna Country gatherings. A BBQ at Durvernay this August drew more than 60 people despite unsettled weather, and a meeting and dinner in Smoky Lake on Dec. 8 attracted more than 90 participants. Attendees and contributors to the events came from almost every corner of the ecomuseum, from Heinsburg to Bon Accord and from Tofield to Vilna, as well as strong representation from communities in between.

"People are starting to recognize that it makes sense to tackle concerns such as historical preservation, natural conservancy and tourism marketing on a regional basis, rather than individual towns and counties trying to do everything themselves. By pooling resources, expertise and volunteer energies, you have much more clout and get a bigger bang for your money."

The ecomuseum is currently preparing to ramp up its promotion of regional agritourism attractions, capitalizing on work conducted over the summer on a grant from Alberta Agriculture. On Dec. 16 the Kalyna DMO hosted a very successful agritourism workshop at the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, and will be following it up with a "cluster" workshop in Andrew on Feb. 6. More information on the latter can be obtained from the Kalyna office at 1-888-452-5962. At the same time, Kalyna Country is in the process of legally trademarking its logo, with the goal of developing it as a brand for regional products.

Planning has been initiated for a "Kalyna Country Idol" competition, to be held this summer at the Ukrainian Village. The Kalyna Trust and DMO are also hoping to sponsor a major conference late in the fall, bringing in scholars to speak on local historic and natural heritage topics, as well as specialists on agritourism, ecotourism and rural development. And of course, research continues to be done on the different interpretive themes of the ecomuseum, with feature articles being prepared on explorer David Thompson and the late founder of Cheemo Perogies, Walter Makowecki, a proud native of the Lac Bellevue district.

To better reflect its growth and evolution over the past decade and a half, the ecomuseum is presently working to re-draft its bylaws. "Because of the administrative complexity of what the ecomuseum is doing and the amounts of money involved, we need to update our structure and governance procedures. The ecomuseum's days as a shoe-string operation have come to an end, and it's time to re-configure ourselves to meet the needs of the future." observes Balan.

It is a future that activists with Kalyna Country obviously anticipate with great optimism and enthusiasm, confident that the organization is well positioned to take advantage of the opportunities now unfolding with Alberta's booming economy.

Crimean Tatars rally over land distribution

(RFE/RL)—Some 4,000 Crimean Tatars gathered on a central square in Simferopol on Jan. 22 to protest a recent bill introducing harsher criminal responsibility for land squatting and what they see as the government's discrimination against Tatars in land-rights disputes on the peninsula, Interfax-Ukraine and dpa reported.

In December, the Verkhovna Rada passed a bill that, if enforced, would reportedly drive thousands of Crimean Tatars out of temporary homes and give undisputed title to the most valuable land in Crimea to non-Tatar persons or firms.

Since 1989, some 260,000 Crimean Tatars or their descendents resettled to Crimea from their forced exile to Central Asia in May 1944.

Land distribution has since long become a burning issue in relations between Slavic inhabitants of the Crimean Peninsula and the resettlers.

Jan 20 troops from the Berkut special-task force and the Ukrainian Interior Ministry have been dispatched to the city of Bakhchysaray in southern Crimea to ensure public security after a drunken brawl between several local residents of Tatar and Slavic descent, Ukrainian news agencies reported.

According to reports, ethnic Tatar Rustem Ametov was fatally stabbed and two other ethnic Tatars were hospitalized as a result of a brawl that spilled from a local tavern onto the street.

Police are looking for Anatoliy Karelin, identified as a 24-year-old man of Slavic origin, who is suspected of stabbing Ametov.

The Bakhchysaray incident took place two days after hundreds of Crimean Tatars brawled with workers from a real-estate company trying to evict them from their encampment on a city plot in Simferopol.

Six people have reportedly been hospitalized following the Simferopol scuffle and police were sent to protect the disputed land plot.

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1976 КІУС 30 РОКІВ УСПІХІВ 2006 CIUS 30 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Луценко оголошує похід на Київ

(Українська правда/УНІАН)—У Вінниці на мітинг, ініційований громадянським рухом "Народна самооборона" 23 січня, за даними громадянського руху, зібралося 8 тисяч осіб.

Лідер громадянського руху Юрій Луценко і політик Тарас Стецьків під час мітингу закликали вінничан вступати в ряди "Народної самооборони".

"Я закликаю вас навесні взяти за руку як мінімум 10 співгромадян і піти на Київ, щоб столиця нашої держави належала нам і влада відповідала за свої обіцянки", - сказав Луценко, звертаючись до громадян.

У мітингу також взяли участь представники "Нашої України", БЮТ, УНА-УНСО.

Після завершення мітингу перед вінничанами виступили відомі українські гурти "Тартак" і "Гайдамаки".

Як повідомлялося, Луценко розпочав поїздки регіонами України з метою створення обласних організацій громадянського руху "Народна самооборона".

Окрім того, Луценко провів у Вінниці ряд зустрічей, в тому числі з міським та обласним керівництвом, провів нараду з керівника обласних організацій "Народної самооборони".

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БУДЬМО в КОНТАКТІ!

Анну Фігус-Ралько з Вінніпегу добре знають в Україні

На вінніпезьку адресу Анни Фігус–Ралько надійшли приємні поштові пакети від правління Національної спілки журналістів України, Вченої Ради Інституту журналістики Київського національного університету ім. Тараса Шевченка та Канцелярії Української православної церкви Київського патріархату.

У вересні ц.р. виповнилося 80 років від дня народження відомої української громадської діячки в діаспорі, колишнього помічника Предстоятеля Української Православної Церкви в Канаді митрополита Іларіона, багатолітнього співробітника найстарішої української газети в Канаді «Український Голос», першої жінки–президента видавничої спілки «Тризуб» у Вінніпезі а нині – співголови створеної в Києві Благодійної організації «Фундація ім. митрополита Іларіона (Огієнка)» Анни Фігус–Ралько.

Анна Фігус–Ралько.

Створивши 1991 року при редакції найстарішої українськомовної газети в Канаді «Український Голос» громадський комітет «Допомога Україні», Анна Фігус–Ралько протягом багатьох років активно працювала для відродження духовності в Україні. Лише за період від 1991 по 2001 роки вона надіслала в різні області України двісті тисяч книжок, виданих українцями за кордоном, з поміж яких – Біблії в перекладі українською мовою митрополитом Іларіоном. Для бібліотеки нашої Київської духовної академії переслала власним коштом 2454 книги, для Бібліотеки національної академії наук України – 2056 книг. На різні адреси сиротинських будинків та бідних родин громадян Анна Антонівна надіслала понад 3000 посилок–пачок з одягом та продуктами загальною вагою близько 60000 кілограмів.

Анні Фігус–Ралько належить ініціатива перевидання книг митрополита Іларіона в Україні. Вона сама виступила фундатором видання кількох недрукованих досі творів цього діяча: «Тарас Шевченко», «Українська культура», «Слово про Ігорів похід», «Історія українського друкарства». Ці та інші книги, видані Фундацією (а таких уже вийшло 10 томів), безкоштовно розсилаються в бібліотеки університетів та шкіл у різні області України згідно з адресарем, створеним Анною Антонівною.

Прізвище Анни Фігус–Ралько добре знають і студенти та викладачі Інституту журналістики Київського національного університету ім. Тараса Шевченка, і в Національній спілці журналістів України, з якими наша землячка активно співробітничає. Гарного розголосу серед читацької громади в Україні набула опублікована видавництвом «Наша культура і наука» (двома виданнями) її цікава і корисна для України книга «Українська Канада».

Ось чому ювілейна дата народження нашої землячки з далекого Вінніпега не залишилася в Україні непоміченою. Скажімо, на засіданні Національної спілки журналістів України було прийнято рішення про нагородження Анни Фігус–Ралько відзнаками – Почесним дипломом та значком «Почесний член Національної спілки журналістів України». Благословенну Грамоту за підписом Святішого Філарета – патріарха Київського і всієї Руси–України було надіслано на вінніпезьку адресу з Канцелярії УПЦПК. А Вчена Рада Інституту журналістики Київського національного університету ім. Тараса Шевченка на своєму вересневому засіданні прийняла рішення про надіслання в Канаду Вітальної адреси на ім'я Анни Фігус–Ралько за підписом директора Інституту професора Володимира Різуна. У тексті цієї адреси зокрема зазначається:

«Вчена Рада Інституту журналістики і я особисто щиро вітаємо Вас із Ювілейним Днем народження.

Ми високо цінуємо Вашу багатолітню безкорисливу працю заради відродження духовності в Україні, виховання підростаючої зміни українських журналістів, ствердження в нашій журналістиці демократичних, гуманних, високоморальних принципів.

Завдяки Вашим зусиллям у бібліотеках вищих навчальних закладів України з'явилося багато українських видань, опублікованих свого часу нашими земляками в діаспорі. А нині бібліотечні фонди постійно поповнюються новинками унікального видавничого проекту «Запізніле вороття» Фундації ім. митрополита Іларіона (Огієнка), який успішно здійснюється в Україні завдяки Вашій безпосередній участі.

Ми завдячуємо Вам також за підшивки канадського «Українського Голосу», які мають можливість читати не лише наші студенти, а й майбутні журналісти, які навчаються в інших університетах України, а також за значний масив інформаційного матеріалу, який Ви надіслали для виконання нашою аспіранткою Оксаною Дзвінчук кандидатської дисертації «Канадська газета *Український Голос* як чинник об'єднання українців у діаспорі».

Щиро вінчуючи вас із Ювілеєм, зичимо Вам, дорога Анно Антонівно, міцного здоров'я, творчої наснаги, бадьорості, багатолітнього продовження творчої співпраці з нашим Інститутом і віри у відродження Української України».

Микола Тимошук,
Доктор філологічних наук, професор, завідувач катедри видавничої справи та редагування Київського національного університету ім. Тараса Шевченка.

Хто загрожує українській Соборності?

Тетяна Ярмощук, *Радіо Свобода*

22 січня — День Соборності України. Керівники держави та місцеві начальники покладають квіти до пам'ятників Тараса Шевченка та Михайла Грушевського. Політики та громадські діячі беруть участь у круглих столах, мітингах та культурно-мистецьких заходах з нагоди свята. А чи є сьогодні загроза соборності України? Якщо так, то хто у цьому винен?

Загроза українській соборності сьогодні є. Це констатують політики, представники усіх партій та кольорів. До того ж, на думку політиків, у цьому винні вони самі.

Представниця Партії регіонів Людмила Кириченко заявила: "Соборність вміщує поняття самої України, самої держави. Все треба зробити для того, щоб відстояти соборність України. Сьогодні, на превеликий жаль, дуже багатьма політиками робиться все, щоб зруйнувати цю соборність. Зараз критична ситуація з соборністю. Політики не думають про Україну, а кожен думає про себе і своє місце в політиці, і в самій Україні. Оті заяви, які зухвало лунають з вуст політиків, ведуть до розколу України. Це і є загроза для того, що Україна може знищитися, як держава".

Констатує проблеми української соборності і нашоукраїнець Юрій Ключковський. На його думку, боротьба за возз'єднання двох берегів Дніпра триватиме: "День Соборності – це день великої пам'яті для українців, бо зафіксоване їхнє велике прагнення до єдності, об'єднання всіх земель в одній державі. Але сьогодні на цей день дивимося з думками про те, чи все ми зробили для того, щоб ті ідеї, які наші діди закладали 22 січня, ми сьогодні здані реалізувати. На жаль, теперішній розвиток подій не дає оптимізму у цьому відношенні. Тому, я думаю, боротьба за соборність української держави і насамперед за її український характер, триватиме".

Як же питання соборності обіцюють не політики? З цим питанням Радіо Свобода звернулася до українського письменника Олександра Ірванця: "День Соборності — щось загадкове і досі актуальне, бо нереалізоване. Мабуть, винні ми всі. Хоча з іншого боку, не може ж проста людина зі Львова чи навіть з Києва просто їхати в Донецьк і просто зі всіма брататися. Хтось же розколює цю Україну і розгойдує цього човна. Хтось же збирає ті з'їзди в Сіверськодонецьках і всякі інші акції проводить, хтось же приймає російську мову на рівні регіональної. Мабуть, це ті, що не хочуть, аби ми стали у ланцюг і взялися за руки".

Left to right: Daria Darewych (President, Shevchenko Scientific Society of Canada), Jurij Darewych (President, Canadian Friends of Ukraine), Margareta Shpir (CFU Vice-President), Ihor Ostash (Ukraine's Ambassador to Canada), Nigel Colley (author and guest speaker) and Lisa Shymko (CFU Executive Director).

CFU promote Famine-Genocide awareness

By Lisa Shymko, *Executive Director Canadian Friends of Ukraine*

As the 75th Anniversary of Ukraine's Famine-Genocide approaches, the Canadian Friends of Ukraine have begun a series of activities and programs aimed at expanding international public awareness of this tragedy.

As a first step, on Nov. 27, 2006, the Canadian Friends of Ukraine, in cooperation with the Shevchenko Scientific Society of Canada, hosted a special evening entitled "Gareth Jones: The Man Who Knew Too Much." CFU President, Professor Jurij Darewych, provided opening remarks and Ukraine's newly-appointed Ambassador to Canada, Ihor Ostash, delivered official greetings. The guest speaker was introduced by the CFU's Executive Director, Lisa Shymko.

A large Toronto audience welcomed the special guest, Nigel Colley — an author and independent researcher from the United Kingdom. Colley is the great-nephew of the acclaimed Welsh newspaper journalist, Gareth Jones.

Utilizing original photographs and documents in his visual presentation, Mr. Colley delivered a moving address about the historic contributions made by his great-uncle. In 1933, Jones, a brilliant and idealistic 28 year-old journalist from Wales, published the first signed exposé in the United States and Britain on Stalin's deliberately imposed famine in Ukraine. His articles appeared in *The Western Mail, The Times, The London Evening Standard, The Manchester Guarding, the Berliner Tageblatt, The New York Evening Post,* and other US newspapers through the International News Service.

Fluent in several languages, including Russian, Jones, a foreign affairs advisor to the former British Prime Minister, Lloyd George, took a secret train trip to Ukraine. Jones' off-limits Ukrainian trek in the snowy early days of March 1933 took him to villages where he spoke to peasants and witnessed, first hand, their hunger and despair.

Two years later, in January 1935, American press baron, Randolph Hearst gave Gareth Jones a carte blanche opportunity to re-visit Ukraine. The resulting articles represent some of the most vitriolic attacks on the Stalinist regime of the time. It is believed that Jones was in fact the first journalist to use the phrase "man-made famine" when describing Stalin's atrocities in Ukraine.

Apologist journalists like the *New York Times'* Walter Duranty tried to discredit Jones, Moscow branded Jones a liar and banned him from re-entering the USSR, and fellow journalists like Malcolm Muggeridge tried to airbrush him out of existence.

In 1934, Jones wrote an ominous letter to a friend. In it, he wrote that he had recently learned that he had become a marked man on the black list of the OGPU and was barred from entering the Soviet Union. Soviet Foreign Affairs Commissar, Litvinov, sent a special cable from Moscow to the Soviet Embassy in London filing an official complaint against Jones to former British PM Lloyd George.

In 1935, on the eve of his thirtieth birthday, Jones was mysteriously kidnapped and murdered in the Far East. For decades, he was believed to have been killed by reckless Chinese bandits. But documents recently uncovered at the British Public Records Office in London indicate that Moscow likely had a direct hand in his murder by way of two Soviet secret agents operating in China.

Recent evidence has uncovered that the vehicle in which Jones was travelling when kidnapped in Mongolia was registered to a trading front of the Soviet NKVD, whose local manager, Adam Purpiss, was associated with the Cheka (Soviet Secret Police). Furthermore, whereas Jones was kidnapped and killed, the German journalist who accompanied him, Herbert Mueller, was released unharmed. According to British Intelligence, Mueller was a known Communist who travelled under assumed aliases, stayed at the Soviet Consulate in China, and was the Comintern's representative in China.

Authoritarian regimes have long feared the threat posed by outspoken journalists and writers. Sadly, to the list of inconvenient truth-tellers, such as Heorhiy Gongadze, Anna Politkovskaya, and Alexander Litvinenko, we must now add the name of Gareth Jones.

The CFU are working to ensure that the historic contributions made by individuals such as Jones, in exposing the truth about the Famine-Genocide, reach a wide audience. For example, the CFU facilitated several in-depth interviews on the topic, which aired on CBC Radio's "As It Happens" hosted by Carol Off and CFRB Radio's Morning Show with Ted Woloshyn.

This past year, representatives of CFU met with deputies in Kyiv from all of Ukraine's parliamentary factions to discuss various human rights issues, including the urgency to recognize the Famine as a national Genocide.

On Nov. 28, 2006 the Parliament of Ukraine passed a law recognizing the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933 as a Genocide. Those voting in favour (233 deputies) were primarily members of the former Orange coalition, namely, Our Ukraine, the Tymoshenko Bloc and the Socialist Party. The Party of Regions and the Communists either refused to vote, abstained, or were absent. In fact, of the 186 members of the Party of Regions, only 2 deputies, Hanna Herman and Taras Chornovil, supported the vote.

The fact that so many politicians in Ukraine, particularly those from the eastern and southern regions, have little knowledge about the Famine should not be surprising. Many Soviet-era crimes have been visibly absent from the history curricula offered by Ukraine's educational system. That is why the programs undertaken by the CFU, such as the Canada-Ukraine Library Centres, Teachers' Awards Program, and Crimea Project, are essential to raising public awareness of these issues.

In 2007, to coincide with the 75th anniversary of Ukraine's tragic Genocide, the CFU plan to expand their activities and programs in Canada and Ukraine to ensure that the international community accord the Famine-Genocide the historic recognition that has been long overdue. With your financial and moral support, we can ensure that world opinion never deny this tragedy again. Canadian Friends of Ukraine, 620 Spadina Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 2H4

Aide says Yushchenko sacked ambassador over Turkmen row

(RFE/RL) — Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko has reportedly dismissed Kyiv's ambassador to Austria following reports suggesting he and another envoy gave preferential treatment to Turkmen oppositionists, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reports.

The announcement of Ambassador Volodymyr Yelchenko's dismissal was made Jan. 23 by presidential aide Oleksandr Chaliy.

He said the move was linked to Yelchenko's purported decision to issue an entry visa for exiled Turkmen opposition leader Khudaiberdy Orazov.

"The president behaved with severity, [but] he had no other choice," Chaliy said. "He made a decision that could stabilize our relations with Turkmenistan. We expect similar actions from the Ukrainian government. The president expects similar actions [from the government]."

It is unclear when Yushchenko's decision comes into force.

Chaliy says the presidential decree will be published "after Yelchenko completes his diplomatic mission" in Vienna.

The previous week, Ukrainian media reported that Orazov and another exiled Turkmen opposition leader, Nurmukhammed Khanamov, visited Kyiv after the death of Turkmen President Suparmurat Niyazov in December on the official invitation of Ukrainian Transportation Minister Mykola Rudkovskiy.

Rudkovskiy denies those reports.

Chaliy on Jan. 23 said Yushchenko is expecting the government — which is headed by bitter political rival Viktor Yanukovych — to sack Rudkovskiy.

Ukraine depends on Turkmen gas imports for its energy needs and has been maintaining good ties with Ashgabat, which is at a crucial junction following the death of long-time leader Niyazov.

Yushchenko and Yanukovych are in a dispute over the president's prerogatives and his appointment as foreign minister, Borys Tarasyuk.

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Business Briefs

Ukraine resumes oil shipments

(Ukrainian Journal)—UkrTransNafta, Ukraine's oil shipment monopoly, resumed oil transit to Slovakia, Hungary and the Czech Republic on Jan. 19 after following a brief disruption due to a power outage, an official said. Oil transit through Ukraine's section of Druzhba pipeline was suspended late Jan. 18 after storms in the region had caused a power outage that had led to the disruption of oil supplies.

WB may open $200 mln credit

(Ukrainian Journal)-The World Bank may open a $200 million credit line for the UkrEnergo national energy company in the third quarter 2007, the company's director says. "We are currently in talks with the World Bank. I hope that in August or September the bank will open a $200 million credit line," UkrEnergo Director Volodymyr Luchnikov said at a meeting in Simferopol on Jan.18.

Economy expands 7%

(Ukrainian Journal)—Ukraine's economy expanded 7% on the year in 2006, faster than the government had expected, as robust steel exports had supported the country's economic growth, the State Statistics Committee reported, Jan. 18. The government has been steadily increasing its 2006 economic growth forecast from 2.6% in January 2006 to 6% in November 2006, due to growing demand for steel, Ukraine's major exports commodity. Ukraine's economy expanded 2.7% on the year in 2005, as world steel prices had dropped thus reducing demand for Ukrainian steel exports, according to the committee.

IMF forecasts 4.5% growth

Journal Staff)—The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is forecasting that Ukraine's GDP will grow 4-4.5% this year and that inflation will be higher than 10%, IMF Senior Resident Representative in Ukraine Jeffrey Franks says. "Our growth forecast is between 4% and 4.5%. This is a positive forecast, but it is a little lower than the government's forecast. Inflation could exceed 10% in 2007 if the recent energy price increase is passed on entirely to consumers," he told Interfax-Ukraine on Jan. 17.

World Bank may invest $1 bln

(Ukrainian Journal)—The World Bank may invest up to $1 billion in projects in Ukraine in 2007, compared with some $500 million invested in 2006, Paul Birmingham, the World Bank's regional director for Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova, said at a news conference on Jan. 17. Relevant projects are in the making and funding will begin when this work is completed, he said.

Russia to supply crude

(Ukrainian Journal)—Russia will supply its crude oil via Ukraine's Brody-to-Odessa oil route for at least the next three years, according to an agreement signed recently by the countries' oil shipping monopolies. The agreement, which was signed by UkrTransNafta, Transneft and Russian oil company TNK-BP, calls for supplying at least 9 million metric tons of oil annually via Brody-Odessa for exports via Black Sea.

Grupa Kety plans $9.6 mln investment

(Ukrainian Journal)—Grupa Kety S.A., Poland's largest aluminum goods producer, in 2007 plans to invest $9.6 million in its Ukrainian subsidiary Aliupol Ltd. in the Kyiv region, according to the group's financial forecast for 2007. Aliupol produces aluminum profiles and plans to boost production as the company seeks to expand its presence on the Ukrainian and Russian contraction material markets.

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Zhalko-Tytarenko wins Canadian juniors title

Sports

(CP)—She was born in Ukraine and lives in the United States, and now she's a Canadian figure skating champion.

Dana Zhalko-Tytarenko surprised everybody by winning the women's junior title Jan. 20.

The 15-year-old has never represented Canada internationally but will now get that opportunity thanks to her breakthrough performance. She was 14th at the novice level a year ago, so she was never mentioned as a possible winner here.

"After I came 14th in novice I decided to really work hard this year," she said. "I got really good coaching and made everything count.

"I worked a lot smarter. I was always working hard but I wasn't necessarily doing the right things. I was just a lot more focused and planned-out this year."

Zhalko-Tytarenko was born in Kyiv. The family moved to Winnipeg when she was four when her father, an aerospace engineer, got a job opportunity. It was while in the Manitoba capital that she received Canadian citizenship.

She was eight when the family moved to Washington. They were there two years and it was on to Ottawa, where she began competitive skating as a member of the Minto Skating Club. The family moved back to the Washington region a year ago, and she continues to skate under the auspices of the Minto.

She's taking 11th-grade correspondence courses through California's Stanford University while training as a skater out of a club in Lauzel, Md., where she is coached by former Russian ice dancer Genrikh Sretenski, who competed at the Calgary Olympics.

"I've always really loved skating," she said. "I'm a pretty competitive person.

"It brings me a lot of joy just to go out on the ice. It's my favourite thing to do. As long as I keep loving it, I'll keep doing it."

The chance to represent Canada is making her giddy.

"It's just so exciting," she said. "To get to travel on the team to different countries, I can't believe it.

"It'll be a wonderful experience. I can't wait."

Her father's company deals with disaster management. He uses satellites to track forest fires among his many projects. Her parents were in the Metro Centre crowd to witness the unexpected win.

"They were very excited," she said.

She was third after the short program.

"I knew there was a possibility I could win but I never believed it," she said. "It was always, `Oh, that's my dream.'

"I never actually thought it would turn out this way."

It gives her a ton of confidence for the future.

"I'm improving day by day pretty much and I just want to keep doing that."

Shevchenko ends scoring drought

Lifts Chelsea into final

Andriy Shevchenko scored twice to lead Chelsea to a League Cup final, Jan. 23, and coach Jose Mourinho still expects more, reports the Associated Press.

Shevchenko scored Chelsea's first two goals in the 4-0 victory over Wycombe and set up the first of two for Frank Lampard.

However, the Ukrainian's most impressive performance yet in English soccer came against a club three divisions below Chelsea. He has to start scoring regularly in the Premier League if Chelsea is to catch leader Manchester United.

"He was brilliant in this game," Mourinho said. "I don't think it is the moment yet for fireworks, but it is a step forward."

The Chelsea manager shook Shevchenko's hand when he substituted him late in the game, three days after pointedly ignoring him at the end of the Jan. 20 2-0 defeat at Liverpool.

"The ones who work more and perform game after game are the ones I send out onto the pitch," Mourinho said. "I am very happy Sheva got the message.

"Sometimes you kiss them and sometimes you kick. At Liverpool, I didn't kick, I ignored."

Shevchenko has been a huge flop in his first season in England, fueling speculation that Mourinho didn't want him and that his 30 million-pound transfer was initiated at the behest of Chelsea's Russian billionaire owner Roman Abramovich.

A free-scoring forward for Dynamo Kyiv and AC Milan, Shevchenko has managed only three goals in 21 Premier League appearances.

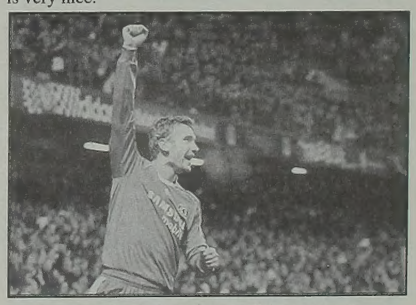
His lack of support for Didier Drogba, who has a total 21 goals this season, is one of the reasons the Blues are trailing United instead of dominating the league for a third straight season.

What Chelsea was hoping for was a repeat of the form Shevchenko showed when he hit eight goals in eight Champions League matches for Dynamo Kyiv and 173 in seven seasons for Milan.

"He needed time to adapt (in English soccer)," Mourinho said. "If he can repeat what he did — in terms of his movement, his contribution for the team, his effort to create spaces, his work when we didn't have the ball and pressing opponents - he is arriving at where we want him to arrive."

Despite a poor first six months at Chelsea, Shevchenko has a first English cup final to look forward to. Chelsea qualified for the Feb. 25 at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium and will face either Tottenham or Arsenal, who played the first leg of their semifinal Jan. 24.

"I'm very happy to be in the final," Shevchenko said. "It's very important that the team played very well and I'm happy. The support for me from the team and fans is very nice."



Andriy Shevchenko celebrates after scoring the second goal of the match against Wycombe during their Carling Cup match at Stamford Bridge stadium in west London. (AFP/Carl De Souza)

Farah pipped by Lebid in Edinburgh

(Sporting Life)—Mo Farah faced a backlash he always expected from Sergiy Lebid when the Ukrainian defeated him at the EventScotland Edinburgh Cross Country in horrible conditions on Jan. 13.

Farah had deliberately delayed making a warm weather trip to South Africa so that he could have a rematch with Lebid whom he denied a seventh European Cross Country title last month in Italy.

The 23-year-old Somalian-born Briton was confident he could win their four kilometres encounter in Holyrood Park but knew Lebid meant business when he requested to run in the shorter course event.

And Lebid adopted a stalking role just after the halfway point.

Farah managed to establish a 10 metres gap at one point but the gale-force wind was biting into the face of last summer's European 5000 metres silver-medallist, and he paid the penalty for the bold move in the closing stages.

Lebid moved on to Farah's shoulders in the final 200 metres and, with a punishing burst, opened a healthy gap to clinch victory by a second in 12 minutes 20 seconds.

Farah said: "I knew he was on my shoulder all the way and after what happened at the Europeans he wanted it more than me.

"I could have run it differently, but I decided my best tactic was to put everything into it, probably earlier than I might have done.

"The conditions were the same for all of us and there were some very good runners in the field."

Before the race, Farah admitted it would be another year before he become strong enough could to challenge world number one Kenenisa Bekele.

Servus Credit Union's Ukrainian Community Council cares

(Servus Credit Union)—Local citizens who care. A credit union that shares. Communities that grow as a result.

The Servus Credit Union Ukrainian Community Council unites active, caring members of the Ukrainian community with the resources of Alberta's largest credit union. This unique model places community investment decisions in the hands of people who know and love their community.

"Servus Credit Union shares funds that our Community Council can provide to projects that enhance the Ukrainian community," said Ukrainian Community Council Chair Yuri Andryjowycz. "Their corporate citizenship has helped build a better quality of life within the Ukrainian community."

Since its formation in 1987, the Ukrainian Community Council has invested over $195,000 to support Ukrainian community initiatives such as:

- Hopak in the Park
- Ukrainian Canadian Social Services
- Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St. Anthony
- Cheremosh Dance Festival
- Ukrainian Youth Unity Association
- Ukrainian Professional and Business Association
- Friends of the Ukrainian Village Golf Tourney
- Ukrainian Students Society
- Association for United Ukrainian Canadians
- Ukrainian Canadian Congress
- Ukrainian Catholic Parish of St. George
- Trembita Concert
- Ukrainian Day at the Village
- Ukrainian Bilingual Association of Alberta
- Alberta Ukrainian Dance Assn.
- Ukrainian Shumka Dancers
- Yarmarok Colouring Contest
- Ukrainian Bilingual Assn.

Members of the Servus Credit Union Ukrainian Community Council. Left to Right: Yuri Andryjowycz, Chair; Marco Levytsky; Bob Kisilevich; Vice Chair; Maria Popiwchak; Ryan Borle, Branch Manager, and Ron Zapisocki. Missing: Tamara Tatuch.

Councils Build Communities

Servus Credit Union, then know as Capital City Savings, originally established Community Councils as a means to support the cultural roots of four of the eight credit unions that merged to form the credit union in 1987.

Since then, the number of culturally based Community Councils has expanded to eight, including East Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Francophone, Korean, Polish, Vietnamese and Ukrainian. Servus Credit Union established seven geographically based Community Councils in the communities of Spruce Grove — Stony Plain, Fort Saskatchewan, Lamont County, Legal, Devon, Leduc and Drayton Valley.

"Servus Credit Union is different because customers are also owners who have a say in the credit union's direction," explained Andryjowycz. "Community Councils give member-owners another voice in their credit union and ensure Servus continues to meet the needs of the communities it serves."

Ukrainian Community Council Members

Members of the Ukrainian Community Council are representatives of the community and are members of our credit union. They are all volunteers who give of their time and energy to support their communities and their credit union.

Members of the Ukrainian Community Council are: Yuri Andryjowycz, Chair; Tamara Tatuch, Vice Chair; Maria Popiwchak; Ron Zapisocki; Marco Levytsky; Bob Kisilevich and Ryan Borle, Branch Manager.

"Servus Credit Union is the only financial company that funds a Community Council like our's and gives local people input on decisions," said Andryjowycz. "They care about people and want to see them build better lives, not just their bank accounts."

Funding Opportunities

Our Delton Branch is home to the Ukrainian Community Council. If your organization would like the Community Council to consider you or your event for a donation, submit a proposal in writing to Ryan Borle, Branch Manager, at 496-2111.

The Ukrainian Community Council has invested over $195,000 to support the Ukrainian community.

If you would like support for your Ukrainian community group contact the home of the Ukrainian Community Council.

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Ukraine, Russia vow to develop closer ties

(RFE/RL)—Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Ukrainian counterpart Viktor Yushchenko pledged in Kyiv on Dec. 22 to consult more closely on outstanding issues and work together to ensure energy supplies to Europe, international and Ukrainian news agencies reported.

"Russia and Ukraine are united by the common goal of building a united Europe without dividing lines — a Europe in which the people of our countries would enjoy good living conditions and the right to communicate and travel freely, without restrictive measures," Yushchenko said at a joint news conference.

"Both countries fully understand the practical advantage and strategic importance of joint action," Putin said at the same news conference.

"It is important that we are putting our cooperation in the fuel and energy field firmly on the market economy track. Our energy sectors are reaching final agreements. Only by doing that can we ensure the energy security of our two countries and also Europe," Putin added.

Minister calculates losses from energy dispute

(RFE/RL)—Ukrainian Energy Minister Yuriy Boyko said on Jan. 10 that prior to the resolution of Belarus and Russia's oil dispute, Ukraine was losing US$330,000 a day, Interfax reported. "We have lost around 50 percent of our export [of Russian oil] and the operation of the Odesa-Brody oil pipeline has stalled in addition," Boyko said. Belarusian ambassador to Ukraine Valyantsin Vyalichka suggested on Jan. 10 that the closure of the Druzhba pipeline should not affect relations between Belarus and Ukraine, Belapan reported. "Ukraine did not consume the oil that is now shut off," Vyalichka was quoted as saying.

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Liberal Leadership Candidate Gerard Kennedy and wife Jeanette are introduced.

Dignitaries abound at Wrzesnewskyj-Fedko wedding

(UkrNews/Myrolava's E-Poshta/ Etobicoke Guardian)—When Liberal party leader Stephane Dion named Wrzesnewskyj to his shadow cabinet Jan. 19, the local MP had something more immediate to look forward to — his wedding Jan. 21.

"I thank Stephane for providing me with a bunch of work for my honeymoon," Wrzesnewskyj laughed, "but it is an honour to be at the shadow cabinet table."

Wrzesnewskyj wed Lina Fedko — the former publisher of the Canadian Ukrainian version of Kyiv one of Ukraine's highest circulated newspapers — in St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Toronto.

His Eminence Archbishop Jurij (George Kalistchuk)of the Eastern Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Canada, officiated at the wedding.

Wrzesnewskyj first met Fedko by chance before a meeting with former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko at the Royal York Hotel three years ago to discuss the then-upcoming presidential elections which would later make headlines as part of the Orange Revolution.

Fedko would make her way to Etobicoke to see Wrzesnewskyj at one of his businesses, Future Bakery. He struck up a conversation and their relationship grew.

Dignitaries who were present either at the church, the reception, or both included: Former Prime Minister John Turner, Toronto Mayor David Miller, Liberal Leadership Candidate Gerard Kennedy, Andrew Telegdi (MP Kitchener-Waterloo), Navdeep Bains (MP Mississauga-Brampton South), Albina Guarnieri (MP Mississauga East - Cooksville), Mark Holland (MP Ajax- Pickering), Ontario Transportation Minister Donna Cansfield (MPP Etobicoke Centre), Mario Silva (MP Davenport). Walt Lastewka (former MP St. Catharine's), Tony Ianno (former MP Trinity-Spadina), Archbishop Jurij, Orysia Sushko – National President of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress), Marc Shwec (UCC Toronto Branch President) and Omar Farouk (President of the international Muslim Organization.

Former Prime Minister John Turner congratulates Borys.

Among the greetings received were those of: Ukrainian President Victor Yushchenko and wife Kateryna Chumachenko Yushchenko; Dmytro Pavlychko, Head of the Ukrainian World Coordinating Council & poet; Mykola Palijchuk mayor of Yaremchi, Ukraine and also a cousin; federal Liberal Leader Stephane Dion and family, Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed, President of the Somali Republic and Piotr Ogrodenski, Poland's Ambassador to Canada.

Best man was Demyan Hyworon, Bory's cousin from Winnipeg.

Maid of Honour was Lina's sister Valeria Trush.

Speakers at the reception included: Olya Panova, a childhood friend from Ukraine who had immigrated to Canada a number of years before Lina, who spoke about Lina's life in Ukraine and Canada; Dr. Jordan Golubov, a close friend of Borys who first met him in Upper Canada College, who spoke about Borys; Rulsana Wrzesnewskyj; Gerard Kennedy; Lina's parents and sister; Borys Wrzesnewskyj; his father Roman Wrzesnewskyj; Lina's mother Ludmila Fedko and Vladyslav Trush (Lina's step-father)

Starosty were Prof. Jurij Darewych and Rulsana Wrzesnewskyj.

Toronto Mayor David Miller congratulates the couple.